

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE
WILMINGTON DIVISION

RONALD A. KATZ TECHNOLOGY
LICENSING, L.P.,

Plaintiff,

v.

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL,
GROUP, INC., ET AL.,

Defendants.

C.A. No. 1:06-CV-00547-GMS

**DEFENDANT AQUILA, INC.'S MOTION TO STAY ACTION
PENDING THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE'S
REEXAMINATION OF PLAINTIFF'S PATENTS**

Defendant Aquila, Inc. ("Aquila") hereby moves the Court to stay this action in its entirety pending the Reexamination proceedings by the United States Patent and Trademark Office relating to patents asserted in this action by Plaintiff Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing, L.P. ("RAKTL" or "Plaintiff").

By this motion, Aquila incorporates herein by reference the Motion to Stay filed by the Qwest Defendants in Civil Action No. 1:06-CV-00546-GMS on December 18, 2006, and their supporting memorandum, copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibits 1 and 2, respectively.

On September 1, 2006, Plaintiff filed five actions in this District¹ accusing a total of ninety-five defendants of infringing one or more of twenty-six U.S. patents.² Plaintiff has asserted eighteen of the twenty-six patents against Aquila in this action.³

¹ *Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing, L.P. v. Reliant Energy, Inc., et al.* (Civil Action No. 1:06-cv-00543), *Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing, L.P. v. TD Banknorth, Inc., et al.* (Civil Action No. 1:06-cv-00544), *Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing, L.P. v. Ahold USA, Inc., et al.* (Civil Action No. 1:06-cv-0545), *Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing, L.P. v. Time Warner*

Currently, ten RAKTL patents are involved in reexamination proceedings before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.⁴ Of these ten patents, five patents that are asserted against Aquila are in reexamination proceedings before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.⁵ In addition, since many of Plaintiff's patents are related to each other and also involve very similar technology, it is likely that others of Plaintiff's patents will be affected by the results of the currently pending reexamination proceedings.

For all the reasons cited in Defendant Qwest's Motion to Stay and supporting Memorandum, attached hereto as Exhibits 1 and 2, and incorporated herein by reference, Defendants respectfully request that the Court stay this action in its entirety pending the

Cable, Inc., et al. (Civil Action No. 1:06-cv-0546), and *Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing, L.P. v. American International Group, Inc., et al.* (Civil Action No. 1:06cv-00547).

² The twenty-six asserted patents are U.S. Patent No. 4,792,968 ("the '968 patent"); 4,930,150 ("the '150 patent"); 4,939,773 ("the '773 patent"); 4,987,590 ("the '590 patent"); 5,128,984 ("the '984 patent"); 5,251,252 ("the '252 patent"); 5,297,197 ("the '197 patent"); 5,351,285 ("the '285 patent"); 5,442,688 ("the '688 patent"); 5,684,863 ("the '863 patent"); 5,787,156 ("the '156 patent"); 5,815,551 ("the '551 patent"); 5,828,734 ("the '734 patent"); 5,835,576 ("the '576 patent"); 5,898,762 ("the '762 patent"); 5,917,893 ("the '893 patent"); 5,974,120 ("the '120 patent"); 6,035,021 ("the '021 patent"); 6,148,065 ("the '065 patent"); 6,335,965 ("the '965 patent"); 6,349,134 ("the '134 patent"); 6,424,703 ("the '703 patent"); 6,434,223 ("the '223 patent"); 6,449,346 ("the '346 patent"); 6,512,415 ("the '415 patent"); and 6,678,360 ("the '360 patent") (collectively, "the asserted patents").

³ The eighteen patents asserted against Aquila in this case include the '065 patent, the '120 patent, the '134 patent, the '150 patent, the '223 patent, the '252 patent, the '285 patent, the '360 patent, the '415 patent, the '551 patent, the '703 patent, the '734 patent, the '762 patent, the '863 patent, the '893 patent, the '965 patent, the '968 patent, and the '984 patent.

⁴ The ten patents currently involved in reexamination proceedings include U.S. Patent Nos.: 5,255,309, 5,259,023, 5,351,285, 5,561,707, 5,684,863, 5,787,156, 5,815,551, 5,828,734, 6,292,547, and 6,434,223. In addition, requests for reexamination of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,128,984 and 5,974,120 have been submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, but the PTO has not yet acted on the requests.

⁵ The five patents currently asserted against Aquila, that are simultaneously involved in reexamination proceedings, include the '223 patent, the '285 patent, the '551 patent, the '734 patent, and the '863 patent.

completion of all of the reexamination proceedings by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office involving Plaintiff's U.S. patents that have been asserted in this action as well as other related but unasserted patents. Specifically, this Court should stay this action in its entirety because (1) Plaintiff will not be prejudiced, much less unduly prejudiced by such a stay; (2) such a stay will simplify the proceedings as a result of the findings of the reexamination proceedings, and thus conserve this Court's and the parties' resources relating to the investigation, discovery, analysis, and construction related to patent claims which are likely to be amended or even cancelled during reexamination; and (3) this action has not progressed past the initial pleading stage, discovery has not yet begun, and no trial date has been set.

For all of these reasons, Aquila respectfully requests that the Court stay this action in its entirety pending the completion of all of the reexamination proceedings by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office involving Plaintiff's U.S. patents that have been asserted in this action as well as other related but unasserted patents. A proposed form of order is attached hereto.

Plaintiff's counsel has been contacted regarding this motion, and counsel has indicated that Plaintiff is opposed to the requested stay.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

RONALD A. KATZ TECHNOLOGY
LICENSING, L.P.,

Plaintiff,

Y.

TIME WARNER CABLE INC., et al.,

Defendants.

C.A. No. 06-546-GMS

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

**DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO STAY ACTION PENDING THE PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE'S REEXAMINATION OF KATZ PATENTS**

All of the Defendants, (*i.e.*, Time Warner Cable Inc., Time Warner NY Cable LLC, Time Warner Entertainment Company LP, AOL LLC, Compuserve Interactive Services Inc., Netscape Communications Corporation, United States Cellular Corporation, TDS Telecommunications Corporation, TDS Metrocom LLC, Qwest Communications International Inc., Qwest Wireless, L.L.C., Qwest Communications Corporation, Qwest LD Corp., Qwest Broadband Services, Inc., and Qwest Interprise America, Inc. (collectively, "Defendants")) hereby move this Court to stay this action pending reexamination by the United States Patent and Trademark Office of seven of the patents-in-suit, at least four other related but unasserted patents, and the possible reexamination of another patent-in-suit. The grounds for this Motion are more fully set forth in the Defendants' Opening Brief in Support of Their Motion to Stay Action

Pending the Patent and Trademark Office's Reexamination of the Katz Patents filed contemporaneously herewith.

Defendants hereby certify pursuant to District of Delaware Local Rule 7.1.1 that they have conferred with counsel for Plaintiff and that Plaintiff has indicated it does not consent to the relief sought in the motion.

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Dated: December 18, 2006

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and Charter Communications
Entertainment I, LLC*

Dated: December 18, 2006

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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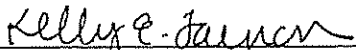
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50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011 1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023 1024 1025 1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035 1036 1037 1038 1039 1040 1041 1042 1043 1044 1045 1046 1047 1048 1049 1050 1051 1052 1053 1054 1055 1056 1057 1058 1059 1060 1061 1062 1063 1064 1065 1066 1067 1

C.A. No. 06-546-GMS

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

ORDER

On this ____ day of _____, 2007, came for consideration Defendants' Motion To Stay Action Pending The Patent And Trademark Office's Reexamination Of The Katz Patents. Having reviewed Defendants' Motion and Brief, Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing L.P.'s Response thereto, and Defendants' Reply, the Court is of the Opinion that Defendants' Motion should be granted and this case stayed at least until the PTO's reexamination of patents assigned to Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing L.P. is complete.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Defendants' Motion for a stay is GRANTED. Accordingly, all aspects of this case are stayed.

SO ORDERED on this _____ day of _____, 2007.

THE HONORABLE GREGORY M. SLEET
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Karen E. Keller, Esquire, hereby certify that on December 19, 2006, I caused to be electronically filed a true and correct copy of the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using CM/ECF, which will send notification that such filing is available for viewing and downloading to the following counsel of record:

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)	
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)	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
TIME WARNER CABLE INC., et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	

**DEFENDANTS' OPENING BRIEF IN SUPPORT
OF THEIR MOTION TO STAY ACTION PENDING THE PATENT
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Entertainment I, LLC*

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I. STATEMENT OF NATURE AND STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS

After delaying for almost eighteen years¹ and after waiting until after the expiration of at least eighteen of the patents-in-suit, on September 1, 2006, Plaintiff, Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing L.P. ("Katz"), filed this action asserting that the thirty named Defendants individually infringe one or more of twenty-six United States Patents.² As of the date of this Motion, all of the Defendants have served and filed their Answer to the Complaint with Counterclaims and Katz has submitted Answers to Defendants' Counterclaims. Also on September 1, 2006, Katz filed four other patent infringement actions in this Court and asserted many of the same patents against sixty-five additional defendants.

All of the named Defendants (*i.e.*, Time Warner Cable Inc., Time Warner NY Cable LLC, Time Warner Entertainment Company LP, AOL LLC, Compuserve Interactive Services Inc., Netscape Communications Corporation, United States Cellular Corporation, TDS Telecommunications Corporation, TDS Metrocom LLC, Cabletelevision Systems Corporation, CSC Holdings Inc., Cablevision Systems New York City Corporation, Cablevision of Brookhaven Inc., Cablevision of Connecticut

¹ United States Patent No. 4,792,968 issued on December 20, 1988.

² The asserted patents are: 4,792,968 ("the '968 patent"); 4,930,150 ("the '150 patent"); 4,939,773 ("the '773 patent"); 4,987,590 ("the '590 patent"); 5,128,984 ("the '984 patent"); 5,251,252 ("the '252 patent"); 5,297,197 ("the '197 patent"); 5,351,285 ("the '285 patent"); 5,442,688 ("the '688 patent"); 5,684,863 ("the '863 patent"); 5,787,156 ("the '156 patent"); 5,815,551 ("the '551 patent"); 5,828,734 ("the '734 patent"); 5,835,576 ("the '576 patent"); 5,898,762 ("the '762 patent"); 5,917,893 ("the '893 patent"); 5,974,120 ("the '120 patent"); 6,035,021 ("the '021 patent"); 6,148,065 ("the '065 patent"); 6,335,965 ("the '965 patent"); 6,349,134 ("the '134 patent"); 6,424,703 ("the '703 patent"); 6,434,223 ("the '223 patent"); 6,449,346 ("the '346 patent"); 6,512,415 ("the '415 patent"); and 6,678,360 ("the '360 patent") (collectively "the asserted patents").

Corporation, Cablevision of Hudson County Inc., Cablevision of Litchfield Inc., Cablevision of Monmouth Inc., Cablevision of New Jersey Inc., Cablevision of Oakland LLC, Cablevision of Rockland/Ramapo LLC, Charter Communications Inc., Charter Communications Holding Company LLC, Charter Communications Operating LLC, Charter Communications Entertainment LLC, Qwest Communications International Inc., Qwest Wireless, L.L.C., Qwest Communications Corporation, Qwest LD Corp., Qwest Broadband Services, Inc., and Qwest Interprise America, Inc. (collectively "Defendants")) move this Court to stay this action pending reexamination by the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("the PTO") of seven patents-in-suit, at least four other related but unasserted patents, and the possible reexamination of one other patent-in-suit.³ This Court should stay the proceeding because: (1) Katz will not be prejudiced, much less unduly prejudiced, by a stay; (2) a stay will simplify the proceedings based upon the reexamination findings and conserve this Court's and the parties' resources by postponing extensive discovery relating to patent claims which are likely to be amended or even cancelled during reexamination; and (3) this case has not progressed much past the initial pleading stage, discovery has not yet begun and no trial date has been set.

Defendants therefore respectfully request that this Court stay all proceedings in this matter pending reexamination of the Katz patents, and that this Court enter Defendants' Proposed Order attached hereto.

³ United States Patent Nos. currently being reexamined are: 5,255,309, 5,259,023, 5,351,285, 5,561,707, 5,684,863, 5,787,156, 5,815,551, 5,828,734, 5,974,120, 6,292,547, and 6,434,223. United States Patent No. 5,128,984 has been submitted for reexamination but as of the date of this motion, the PTO had not acted on the request.

II. SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

1. The PTO is currently reexamining seven patents-in-suit, and four other related Katz patents. In addition, one patent-in-suit has a request for reexamination pending. As this Court is aware, during a reexamination, the PTO reviews cited prior art and determines whether claims in the patent should be cancelled or amended. Statements made during reexamination by the PTO and the patent owner become part of the prosecution history and are crucial to claim construction. Moreover, terms found in other patents' claims, even patents that are not themselves subject to reexamination, will also be affected by the PTO's and patent owner's positions during the reexamination process and the PTO's conclusions regarding the reexamined patents' claims. Finally, in these reexamination the Patent Office is undertaking a complex review regarding the priority dates to which the patents are entitled. This review may have significant impact on the prior art applicable to the patents.
2. The decision to stay a case, including pending patent reexamination, is within this Court's discretion.
3. As this Court has repeatedly stated,⁴ courts look to several factors when determining whether to exercise their discretion in granting a stay, those factors include:
 - (1) whether a stay would unduly prejudice or present a clear tactical disadvantage to the non-moving party (in this case Katz);
 - (2) whether a stay will simplify the issues in question and trial of the case; and
 - (3) whether discovery is complete and whether a trial date has been set.
4. All of these factors weigh heavily in favor of granting a stay pending the outcome of the PTO's reexamination of the Katz patents.

⁴ See e.g., *Abbott Diabetes Care, Inc. v. Dexcom, Inc.*, C.A. No. 05-590 GMS, 2006 WL 2375035, at *6 (D. Del. Aug. 16, 2006) (citing *Xerox Corp. v. 3 Com Corp.*, 69 F. Supp. 2d 404, 406 (W.D.N.Y.1999)); *Applera Corp v. Thermo Electron Corp.*, 04-CV-1230 (GMS), (D. Del. Dec. 28, 2005) (ORDER); *Alloc, Inc v Unilin Decor N.V.*, No. Civ.A. 03-253-GMS, 2003 WL 21640372, at *2 (D. Del. July 11, 2003) (same); *Pegasus Dev. Corp. v. DirectTV, Inc.*, No. Civ.A. 00-1020-GMS, 2003 WL 21105073, at * 2 (D. Del. May 14, 2003) (same); *Gioello Enters Ltd v. Mattel, Inc.*, No. C.A. 99-375 GMS, 2001 WL 125340, at *1-2 (D. Del. Jan 29 2001) (same).

5. *First*, a stay would not prejudice, much less unduly prejudice, Katz because: (1) Katz's delay in filing this and its other actions demonstrates that time is not of the essence; and (2) Katz is only entitled to monetary damages (if anything), which will be sufficient to offset any supposed "damages" which may accrue during a stay.
6. *Second*, a stay may simplify or reduce the issues for this Court's consideration, or it may dispense with the litigation entirely, and staying this case pending reexamination of the several Katz patents will conserve this Court's as well as the parties' resources.
7. *Third*, in light of the case's early posture, no effort will be wasted because discovery has not begun, no case management order has been issued and a trial date has not been set.

III. STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. Katz and Katz Patents

Ronald A. Katz is the alleged inventor of the patents-in-suit and founder of Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing L.P., a limited partnership formed for the purpose of licensing the Katz patents. D.I. #1, Complaint at ¶ 40. According to Katz, the claimed inventions are directed to the integration of telephonic systems with computer databases and live operator call centers to provide interactive call processing services. *Id.* at ¶ 43. The collective prosecution history of the Katz patents (which have been before the PTO for more than twenty years) runs into the thousands of pages. To Defendants' knowledge, Katz does not make or market any of the alleged inventions claimed in the myriad of claims.

In this matter, Katz claims that the thirty Defendants have infringed or are infringing one or more claims of twenty-six Katz patents. Complaint at ¶¶ 51-77. Of the twenty-six asserted patents, eighteen were already expired when Katz filed suit. *Id.* at ¶¶ 52, 53, 59, 61-63, 65-67, and 69-77.

B. History of Katz's Licensing/Litigation Campaign

Katz claims that it has licensed its patented technology to over 150 companies while also filing "several" patent infringement cases. *See* Ex. 1, Katz Resp. to Mot. to Trnsfr. & Consolidate Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407 at 3.⁵ In past litigation, Katz has repeatedly demonstrated its desire to avoid litigation by settling and granting licenses as only three actions progressed beyond the initial stages of litigation. No case that Katz has filed has ever reached trial. Katz has never even filed a motion for preliminary injunctive relief. *Id.* For example, in *Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing, L.P. v. AT&T Corp.*, No. 97-CV-4452 (E.D. Pa.) Katz asserted infringement of several of the patents at issue in this case. The Pennsylvania case progressed through the claim construction phase but settled shortly thereafter. In *Verizon California, Inc. v. Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing, L.P.*, No. 01-CV-09871 (C.D. Cal.), a non-infringement and invalidity declaratory judgment action that included a related counterclaim for infringement, the court construed several terms of the patents in this case and ruled on several motions for summary judgment, following which (approximately six weeks prior to trial) the parties settled. In *Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing, L.P. v. Citibank, N.A.* (5:06-CV-142), which is still pending, the District Court for the Eastern District of Texas has heard arguments regarding claim construction but has not, as of this date, issued a claim construction ruling.

⁵ Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to Exhibits refer to the exhibits attached to the declaration of Kelly E. Farnan filed concurrently herewith.

C. Present Status of Pending Katz Litigation

Nationwide, Katz litigations presently involve twenty-five actions asserting a total of twenty-seven patents against more than 170 different defendants before four different judges in two separate districts. *See* Ex. 1, Katz's Resp. to Mot. to Trnsfr. and Consolidate at ¶¶ 1 and 9-12. Of the twenty-five pending actions, eighteen were initiated on August 21, 2006 and the five actions pending before this Court⁶ were filed on September 1, 2006. The five actions in this Court involve over 90 defendants and twenty-one of the twenty-six patents Katz asserted in this action are also asserted in at least one of the four other actions.

Katz's other twenty separate actions are presently pending in the Eastern District of Texas. Target Corporation, a defendant in one of the Texas proceedings, No. 5:06-CV-188 (E.D. Tex) (Texarkana Division), asked the Joint Panel on Multidistrict Litigation ("JPML") to transfer and consolidate *all* twenty-five of the pending Katz actions to the Central District of California, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407. Katz opposed this motion, as did virtually all of the defendants in the Delaware actions.⁷

⁶ *Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing, L.P. v. Reliant Energy, Inc. et al* (1:06-cv-00543), *Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing, L.P. v. TD Banknorth Inc. et al* (1:06-cv-00544), *Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing, L.P. v. Ahold USA Inc. et al* (1:06-cv-00545), *Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing, L.P. v. Time Warner Cable Inc. et al* (1:06-cv-00546), and *Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing, L.P. v. Am Int'l Group Inc. et al* (1:06-cv-00547).

⁷ In this action, oppositions were filed by the following defendants (encompassing all related named entities): Time Warner, AOL, Charter, U.S. Cellular, Cablevision and Qwest. In the other Delaware actions, oppositions were filed by the following defendants (encompassing all related named entities): CIGNA, AIG, Aquila, Experian, National City Bank, Comerica, DHL, Express Scripts, Jean Coutu, Maxi Drug, Eckerd, Brooks Pharmacy, TD Banknorth, Wilmington Trust, La Salle Bank, ABN, AMRO, Rite-Aid, Duke Energy and Ahold.

D. Patent Office Reexamination Proceedings

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 302, any person may at any time request that the PTO reexamine an issued patent. 35 U.S.C. § 302. Within three months of receiving a request for reexamination, the Patent Office must decide if the request raises “a substantial new question of patentability affecting any claim of the patent.” 35 U.S.C. § 303. Alternatively, the Director of the Patent Office may determine “on his own initiative” whether “a substantial new question of patentability is raised by patents and publications discovered by him...” *Id.*

The PTO is presently reexamining eleven Katz patents; another request for reexamination is pending PTO approval. Seven of the eleven patents currently being reexamined are patents Katz asserts in this case. The one pending request for reexamination is also a patent-in-suit. The Director of the Patent Office ordered the four remaining reexaminations on his own. In the Director-ordered reexaminations, the patents at issue are related to the patents-in-suit but are not asserted here.

IV. LEGAL STANDARDS

The decision to stay a case is within this Court’s discretion. *See Cost Bros., Inc. v Travelers Indem. Co.*, 760 F.2d 58, 60 (3d Cir. 1985). This Court’s authority to grant a stay also applies to patent cases in which a reexamination by the PTO has been requested. *Ethicon, Inc v Quigg*, 849 F.2d 1422, 1426-27 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (noting that “[c]ourts have inherent power to manage their dockets and stay proceedings, including the authority to order a stay pending conclusion of a PTO reexamination”) (internal citations omitted). Indeed, staying litigation pending the outcome of a patent reexamination is consistent with the underlying purpose of the reexamination procedure — *i.e.*, the

promotion of a speedy and cost effective patent validity assessment. *Abbott Diabetes Care*, 2006 WL 2375035, at *6; *Hamilton Indus., Inc. v. Midwest Folding Prod. Mfg. Corp.*, No. 89 C 8696, 1990 WL 37642, at *1 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 20, 1990) (“The reexamination procedure was created to promote the speedy and less costly review of the validity of patents in certain limited situations.”); *ASCII Corp v. STD Entm’t USA, Inc.*, 844 F. Supp. 1378, 1381 (N.D. Cal. 1994) (“[T]here is a liberal policy in favor of granting motions to stay pending the outcome of USPTO reexamination or reissuance proceedings.”).

Courts look to several factors to determine whether to order a stay, including: “(1) whether a stay would unduly prejudice or present a clear tactical disadvantage to the non-moving party; (2) whether a stay will simplify the issues in question and trial of the case; and (3) whether discovery is complete and whether a trial date has been set.” *Xerox Corp v. 3 Com Corp.*, 69 F. Supp. 2d 404, 406 (W.D.N.Y.1999) (citing cases); *see also United Sweetener USA, Inc. v. Nutrasweet Co.*, 766 F. Supp. 212, 217 (D. Del. 1991) (stating a similar test). This Court has assessed these factors on several other occasions and determined that stays were appropriate. *See supra* n. 4.

V. ARGUMENT

Each factor weighs in favor of staying this case pending the outcome of the Katz patents currently subject to PTO reexamination.

A. A Stay Would Neither Prejudice, Much Less Unduly Prejudice Katz, Nor Would A Stay Present Katz With A Clear Tactical Disadvantage.

An examination of the non-movant’s prejudice typically involves a determination of the harm suffered should the non-movant be deprived its expeditious day in court. *See e.g., Pegasus Dev*, 2003 WL 21105073, at * 2 (noting that the Court was “sensitive to

the plaintiffs' right to have their day in court" but nevertheless granting a stay). In this case, Katz's almost eighteen year delay in filing suit against the 95 defendants in the five actions pending before this Court belies any claim of prejudice that Katz may make. Indeed, Katz's mass September 1, 2006 filings demonstrate that this case is part of an end-game strategy, implemented after the expiration of eighteen of the patents-in-suit, devised to collect any remaining royalties that Katz claims to be owed.

In any event, Katz is not entitled to injunctive relief. Katz is an intellectual-property licensing company that does not compete in the industry. As such, assuming *arguendo* that Katz is entitled any relief whatsoever, Katz will only be entitled to monetary damages. See *eBay v. MercExchange, L.L.C.*, 126 S. Ct. 1837, 1841 (2006) (reversing the "general rule that courts will issue permanent injunctions against patent infringement absent exceptional circumstances" and applying the traditional four-factor test for determining whether injunctive relief is warranted, which includes assessing whether monetary damages are adequate, when determining whether to grant a permanent injunction); see also *id.* at 1842 (Kennedy J. concurring) (recognizing that where patents are asserted by entities which do not use them for production but rather primarily for obtaining licensing fees, "legal damages may well be sufficient...and an injunction may not serve the public interest"); *z4 Tech, Inc. v. Microsoft Corp.*, 434 F. Supp. 2d 437, 441-42 (E.D. Tex. 2006) (finding monetary damages adequate because plaintiff was not precluded from licensing its patent to others); *Paice LLC v. Toyota Motor Corp.*, No. 2:04-CV-211, 2006 WL 2385139, at *5 (E.D. Tex. Aug. 16, 2006) (finding that the plaintiff's supposed "inability to license" was not sufficient to find monetary damages inadequate where plaintiff did not compete in the market or produce the patented

product). Accordingly, no monetary prejudice prevents this Court from granting a stay. *See Gioello Enter*, 2001 WL 125340, at *2 (“Gioello is not selling or actively licensing goods or services related to [its] patent; money damages is an adequate remedy for any delay in redress.”); *Guthy-Renker Fitness L.L.C. v. Icon Health & Fitness Inc.*, 48 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1058, 1061, No. CV 97-7681 LGB (Ex), 1998 WL 670240 (C.D. Cal. July 15, 1998) (ordering a stay because money damages would adequately compensate the plaintiff).

Because Katz will suffer no prejudice, much less “undue” prejudice, this factor weighs heavily in favor of granting a stay.

B. A Stay Will Simplify The Issues In Question And Trial Of This Case.

Katz claims that Defendants infringe one or more claims of the patents-in-suit. This Court will need to examine the validity of the patents (based on prior art and deficiencies in the patents’ specifications). During a reexamination, the PTO reviews cited prior art and determines whether it renders one or more of the claims, in their originally issued form, unpatentable as well as whether information added or deleted during the reexamination proceeding comports with 35 U.S.C. § 112. 37 C.F.R. 1.552. The PTO can cancel or amend one or more claims of a reexamination patent in light of newly considered prior art. 35 U.S.C. § 307(a).⁸ Katz may also amend claims. But more importantly, the PTO may cancel some or all of the claims at issue in the reexaminations. PTO statistics demonstrate that in the twenty-five years since the start of

⁸ 35 U.S.C. § 307(a) (Upon completion of the reexamination process, the PTO “will issue and publish a certificate canceling any claim of the patent finally determined to be unpatentable, confirming any claim of the patent determined to be patentable, and incorporating in the patent any proposed amendment of new claim determined to be patentable.”).

ex parte reexaminations, the claims are either cancelled outright or changed 74% of the time. *See* Ex. 2, PTO *Ex Parte* Reexamination Filing Data - March 31, 2006.⁹ Thus, the PTO's reexamination will impact the entire basis for this action. For example, during the reexaminations the PTO will evaluate prior art and priority dates and Katz will likely take positions, to be recorded in the reexamination prosecution histories, regarding the prior art. Katz has already taken positions regarding priority dates and will likely take additional positions.

Moreover, reexamination of these patents will undeniably impact this Court's resolution of many of the issues relating to all of the patents-in-suit because the patents arise from related applications,¹⁰ refer to the same subject matter,¹¹ and share many of the same terms.¹² *See also Alloc*, 2003 WL 21640372, at *2 (explaining that even though

⁹ Exhibit 11 is a copy of "Exhibit A" to Katz's Supplemental Claim Construction Brief Addressing New Evidence filed in the Eastern District of Texas (5:05-CV-142-DF) on December 4, 2006.

¹⁰ For example, twenty-two of the twenty-six asserted patents all allegedly relate to telephone control systems and arose from Katz's first patent application. The remaining four asserted patents arose from Katz's '773 patent application and allegedly relate to multiple party telephone control systems. Eleven of the asserted patents are either being reexamined or are direct descendants of one or more patents currently being reexamined.

¹¹ All of the asserted patents allegedly relate to telephone control systems, public communications facilities, telephone call processing, or telephone interfaces as demonstrated by their various patent titles.

¹² As one example, the PTO has determined that one prior art publication ("Barger") discloses the use of three Katz claim terms ("analysis control system," "communication facility," and "remote terminals") found in just one claim of one of the reexamination patents (claim 27 of the '863 patent). For this one claim to survive reexamination, Katz must either amend the claim to further narrow it, acknowledging that Barger discloses the three terms, or distinguish Barger thereby further defining the meaning of the three terms. Importantly, the term "analysis control system" is found in one or more claims of three other patents-in-suit (*i.e.*, the '762, '021, and '346 patents); the term "communication facility" is found in one or more claims of fourteen other patents-in-suit (*i.e.*, the '968, '984, '150, '252, '197, '576, '762, (Continued...)

asserted patent was not subject to reexamination, because a related patent was in reexamination and because patents were “alike in subject matter as well as in many of their claims” there was “a sufficient correlation among all of the patents” warranting a stay). Accordingly, the PTO’s reexamination findings will simplify the case, and serve to conserve this Court’s resources should this Court grant a stay.

At the very least, the PTO’s analysis and application of asserted prior art will further inform this Court of the applicability and scope of the art as well as inform the Court regarding the claim construction of common terms found throughout the Katz patents. *Guthy-Renker*, 48 U.S.P.Q. 2d at 1060-1061 (noting that the expertise of the PTO in reexamining the claims of the patents-in-suit will be instructive to the Court’s claim construction, warranting a delay of *Markman*).

1. A Stay Will Conserve Judicial Resources And Party Resources.

This Court has previously recognized that it can conserve its scarce resources by staying cases pending the outcome of concurrent PTO reexamination proceedings. *See e.g., Abbott Diabetes Care*, 2006 WL 2375035, at *6; *Applera*, 04-CV-1230 (GMS), D.I. 81, *Alloc*, 2003 WL 21640372, at *2; *Pegasus Dev*, 2003 WL 21105073, at * 2; *Gioello Enters.*, WL 2001 125340, at *1-2. The facts of the present case are consistent with the facts of these cases and support conserving this Court’s resources by postponing resolution of issues entirely dependent upon the patent claims — many of which will be affected in some manner by the PTO’s reexamination findings.

⁸893, ⁹021, ⁹965, ⁹134, ⁹703, ⁹346, and ⁹415 patents); and the term “remote terminals” is found in one or more claims of thirteen other patents-in-suit (*i.e.*, the ⁹150, ⁹773, ⁹590, ⁹984, ⁹252, ⁹197, ⁹688, ⁹762, ⁹893, ⁹021, ⁹965, ⁹134, and ⁹346 patents).

First, because the claims' scope may change, this Court should not review and decide claim construction until any reexamination decision is rendered. *Vitronics Corp v Conceptoronic Inc.*, 36 F. Supp.2d 440, 442 (D. N.H. 1997). Indeed, addressing and deciding the claim construction prior to the PTO's findings in reexamination would deprive this Court of the PTO's expertise, something this Court has been reluctant to do in the past. *Pegasus Dev*, 2003 WL 21105073, at * 2. A premature claim construction ruling would also run the risk of inconsistent rulings or this Court issuing in effect, advisory opinions. *Abbott Diabetes Care*, 2006 WL 2375035, at *6 (citing *Gioello Enters*, No. C.A. 99-375 GMS, WL 2001 125340, at *1). *Second*, because this Court's claim constructions will impact both infringement and validity, the reexamination will affect this Court's involvement in all remaining aspects of the case (*e.g.*, discovery, summary judgment, and possibly trial). See *Ralph Gonnocci Revocable Living Trust v. Three M Tool & Mach. Inc.*, 68 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1765, 1758, No. 02-74796, 2003 WL 22870902 (E.D. Mich. Oct. 7, 2003) ("[T]he PTO's determination will be beneficial to the efficient resolution of this action. The PTO may resolve any remaining disputes [and] simplify the issues"); *Softview Computer Prods Corp v Haworth Inc*, No. 97 Civ. 8815 KMW HBP, 2000 WL 1134471, at *3 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 10, 2000) ("[I]f the reexamination proceeding invalidates or narrows a claim or claims, the issues at trial will be simplified.") *Third*, because Katz has dozens of other patent infringement cases pending against more than 140 defendants in this and other District Courts, it is likely that dispositive results (from another District or from the Federal Circuit) will impact the case before this Court during the pendency of a stay. *Fourth*, it is likely that asserted claims of some of the patents-in-suit will be cancelled, or amended such that discovery

into certain of Defendants' accused devices would be irrelevant and wasteful, and other asserted defenses (*e.g.*, laches, estoppel, waiver, unclean hands, etc.) would be mooted as to such claims. *Loffland Bros. Co. v. Mid-Western Energy Corp.*, No. Civ-83-2255-E, 1985 WL 1483, at *2 (W.D. Okla. 1985) ("The reexamination procedure has the potential to eliminate trial on the issue of patent infringement, should all of the patent's claims be cancelled.").

In short, absent a stay, this Court's resources would be drained by motion practice relating to issues which may eventually become moot and discovery disputes relating to claims that may either change or not exist after reexamination. *Hewlett-Packard Co. v. Acuson Corp.*, No. C-93-0808 MHP, 1993 WL 149994 at *2 (N.D. Cal. May 5, 1993) ("[C]ourts need not expend unnecessary judicial resources by attempting to resolve claims which may be amended, eliminated, or lucidly narrowed by the patent reexamination process and the expertise of its officers."); *Target Therapeutics, Inc. v. Scimed Life Sys., Inc.*, No. C-94-20775, 1995 WL 20470 at *2 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 13, 1995) ("Absent a stay [pending reexamination], ...the court may waste time examining the validity of claims which are modified or eliminated altogether during reexamination.").

In addition, the costs of *all* parties (including Plaintiff) will be reduced if this Court grants a complete stay. *Target Therapeutics*, No. C-94-20775, 1995 WL 20470 at *2 ("Absent a stay [pending reexamination], the parties may end up conducting a significantly wider scope of discovery than necessary....").

2. The Issues Will Be Narrowed And Simplified After The PTO Completes Reexamination.

In addition to the preservation of judicial and party resources that a stay would provide, the PTO's decisions on the pending reexamination applications will also

simplify and narrow many issues that will eventually be before this Court. Specifically, a stay will aid this Court by narrowing issues relating to claim construction, patent validity based upon prior art, priority issues, and whether certain asserted claims and patents will remain.

a. Reexamination Will Affect Claim Construction.

The impact of the current reexamination proceedings on the construction of claims in the patents-in-suit is clear. During reexamination there is typically a give-and-take between the Patent Examiner and the applicant in which claims that have been rejected as unpatentable are amended. Therefore, it is likely that during the current reexamination proceedings, the particular claim language in the reexamination patents-in-suit will either be changed or the claims cancelled altogether should those claims be found unpatentable over the prior art.¹³

Even if the claim language is not changed or deleted, Katz's representations to the PTO will inform this Court as to the meaning of similar terms found in the other non-reexamination patents. The PTO's and the patentee's actions during the reexamination procedure become part of the prosecution history. *See e.g., E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. v. Phillips Petroleum Co.*, 849 F.2d 1430, 1439 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (statements made

¹³ Indeed, many of Katz's infringement contentions may simply be rendered moot by a cancellation or modification of the claims presently being reexamined. *Bausch & Lomb, Inc. v. Alcon Labs., Inc.*, 914 F. Supp. 951, 953 (W.D.N.Y. 1996) ("Because, [sic] the PTO is considered to have expertise in deciding issues of patentability[,], many courts have preferred to postpone making final decisions on infringement until the PTO rules on issues before it."); *Middleton, Inc. v. Minn. Mining & Mfg. Co.*, No. 4:03-CV-40493, 2004 WL 1968669, at *10 (S.D. Iowa Aug. 24, 2004) (citing *Gioello Enters. Ltd. v. Mattel, Inc.*, 2001 WL 125340, at *1 (D. Del. Jan. 29, 2001) (finding that PTO's decision could render moot the issues of non-infringement and invalidity before the court in pending motions for summary judgment)).

during PTO proceedings “are relevant prosecution history when interpreting claims”). And the prosecution history is a valuable source of intrinsic evidence which may be used for claim construction purposes. *Phillips v. AWH Corp.*, 415 F.3d 1303, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2005). The prosecution history of related, but unasserted patents, may also inform this Court as to the meaning of terms used consistently throughout the Katz family of patents. *See, e.g., Microsoft Corp. v. Multi-Tech Sys., Inc.*, 357 F.3d 1340, 1349-1350 (Fed. Cir. 2004) (holding that statements made in prosecution of one patent are relevant to the scope of all sibling patents); *Laltram Corp. v. Morehouse Indus., Inc.*, 143 F.3d 1456, 1460 & n.2 (Fed. Cir. 1998) (noting that it was proper to consider the prosecution histories of two related re-examination patents originating from the same parent, to determine the meaning of a term used in both patents); *Abtox, Inc. v. Exitron Corp.*, 131 F.3d 1009, 1010 (Fed. Cir. 1997) (recognizing that common terms in separate but related patents should be construed in like manner). Accordingly, the interactions between Katz and the PTO will undeniably impact this Court’s claim construction. *Guthy-Renker*, 48 U.S.P.Q. 2d at 1060-1061 (noting that the expertise of the PTO in reexamining the claims of the patents-in-suit will be instructive to the court’s claim construction, warranting a delay of *Markman*); *Vitronics*, 36 F. Supp. 2d at 442 (“The reexamination process could more precisely define the scope of claim 1, or it could leave claim 1 unchanged. Because determining the scope of the disputed claim is central to the resolution of this case, it would be inefficient for the court to expend time and resources engaging in claim interpretation while the scope of the claim is still under review at the PTO.”).

The current reexaminations of the ‘156 and ‘707 patents demonstrate how the PTO’s actions in the ongoing reexaminations have an immediate impact on the

construction of claim terms found in the patents in suit. As recently as July 2006, in connection with the '707 reexamination, Katz submitted an argument to the PTO regarding the meaning of a particular term found in numerous claims of the patents in suit: "consumable participation key." Katz argued that that term was broad enough to encompass a participation key that, once consumed, could nonetheless be refreshed under certain circumstances (*e.g.*, not automatically). Ex. 3, Reexam Control No. 90/006,978, Response filed by Katz on July 17, 2006 at 53. In September, first in connection with the '156 reexamination and then in connection with the '707 reexamination, the Examiner determined that "[t]he consumable key number cannot ever—for any reason—be refreshed or recharged or renewed once the predefined number of uses have been used ..." Ex. 4, Reexam Control No. 90/007,697, Office Action dated September 8, 2006 at 4-5; Ex. 5, Reexam Control No. 90/006,978, Office Action dated September 29, 2006 at 92. In response, in October, faced with the Examiner's claim construction, Katz abandoned its prior construction and adopted the Examiner's narrow definition. Ex. 6, Reexam Control No. 90/007,697, Response filed by Katz on October 26, 2006 at 21-22. This single example demonstrates the benefits and efficiencies of allowing the PTO to conclude the reexaminations before the Court takes up these issues.

The impact of the communications between Katz and the PTO as well as the findings of the PTO on this Court's future claim construction was further demonstrated in another Katz action pending in the Eastern District of Texas (5:05-cv-00142-DF). In that case, *Markman* briefing was complete and a two day *Markman* hearing was held on September 19th and 20th of this year. One month later, a PTO decision during reexamination of one of the patents-in-suit prompted Defendants to move for leave to file

supplemental *Markman* briefing. On December 5, 2006, the Eastern District of Texas Court granted the motion and accepted supplemental *Markman* briefing from Katz and the defendants. This scenario aptly demonstrates how the ongoing Katz reexaminations will provide valuable intrinsic evidence that this Court will eventually utilize when construing various terms found throughout the twenty-six asserted patents in this case. Absent a stay, and with patents both asserted and unasserted in reexamination, Katz's ongoing representations and the findings of the PTO during reexaminations process will, like the Texas action above, affect this Court's ability to render its *Markman* ruling.

b. Reexamination Will Impact the Prior Art Analysis.

In addition, reexamination will also impact Defendants' prior art-based invalidity defenses. During reexamination, the PTO assesses the prior art and compares it to the claims of the patents being reexamined. Should the PTO determine that prior art renders one or more claims of the reexamination patents unpatentable, the PTO will cancel those claims. Likewise, the PTO may also ascertain whether the specification provides support for the claims of the reexamination patent. If not, the claim will be rendered unpatentable and cancelled. Indeed, with regard to the '156 patent, the PTO is currently determining whether there was support for the "consumable key number" term in the original specification. *See* Ex. 7, Reexam Control No. 90/007,697, Examiner Interview Summ. Record October, 12, 2006.

c. Reexamination Will Also Impact Priority Issues.

Apart from the PTO's expertise in examining the prior art during reexamination, the PTO will also narrow the issues before this Court by determining the priority dates for the inventions claimed in the Katz patents. All but two of the twenty-six asserted

patents arose from either continuation, continuation-in-part or divisional applications. As such, only claims that were supported by the original specification are entitled to the original specification's priority date. 35 U.S.C. §§ 119-121. Should the PTO determine, for example during the pending '156 patent reexamination, that one or more claims are not entitled to an earlier priority date, this would drastically affect what is and what is not prior art to many of the claims of the patents-in-suit.

**d. Amendments Made During Reexamination Will Directly
Impact Whether Certain Patents Remain In This Litigation.**

As discussed above, it is very likely that Katz will have to amend one or more claims of any reexamination patent or patents to overcome a prior art rejection, and the amendments result in claims that are not substantially identical to the original claims, the original claims of the patent or patents will be deemed surrendered. 35 U.S.C. § 307 (stating that 35 U.S.C. § 252 applies to amended reexamination claims). Accordingly, during the reexamination of Katz's expired patents (*i.e.*, the '285, '863, '156, and '551 patents) should Katz submit claim amendments resulting in claims that are not substantially identical to the original claims, those patent claims will be surrendered and no longer at issue because Katz cannot collect damages relating to any purported infringement of those claims. *See Seattle Box Co. v. Indus. Crating & Packaging Inc.*, 731 F.2d 818, 827 (Fed. Cir. 1984) (noting that under § 252 "[a]n original patent cannot be infringed" if the new claims are not substantially identical to the original claims because "the original patent is surrendered"); *Intest Corp. v. Reid-Ashman Mfg., Inc.*, 66 F. Supp. 2d 576, 583 (D. Del. 1999) ("[I]f the reexamined and original claims are not identical, then the patentee has no right to damages for infringement prior to the reissue or reexamination date, because the original patent has been surrendered and is

extinguished.”). Thus, entire patents could be removed from this litigation if, as is statistically likely, amendments are made to the claims of those patents.

In short, granting a stay will conserve this Court’s and the parties’ resources, allow this Court the benefit of the PTO’s amendment, cancellation or affirmation of the claims’ scope prior to the Court conducting its own claim interpretation, and narrow the issues to be decided as they may eventually be rendered moot. As this Court previously recognized under similar circumstances:

[A] stay may result in a simplification or reduction of issues for the court’s consideration, or it may dispense with the litigation entirely. These are considerable economies indeed, particularly in this case. Given the involved prosecution history of the various patents-in-suit and...related patents, the number of claim terms at issue, the inordinate amount of prior art references, and the PTO’s conclusion that all of the challenged claims warrant reexamination, the court finds particular merit in permitting an additional layer of review by the PTO before expending further judicial resources.

Pegasus Dev., 2003 WL 21105073, at * 2 (citations omitted).

For all of the foregoing reasons, this factor also weighs heavily in favor of granting a stay.

C. Discovery Has Not Begun And A Trial Management Order Has Not Been Issued.

“Stays are more likely to be granted if requested early in litigation before substantial discovery and trial preparation and less likely to be granted if requested late.” 4 DONALD S. CHISUM, CHISUM ON PATENTS § 11.07[4][b][iv] (Mathew Bender & Co. 2004). In *Target Therapeutics*, 1995 WL 20470 at *2, the court ordered a stay because no significant discovery or trial preparation had taken place. And in *Guthy-Renker*, 48 U.S.P.Q. 2d at 1060, the court noted that “the relevant factors weigh heavily in favor of

staying the proceedings pending the conclusions of the reexamination” when the parties had not yet engaged in expensive discovery and a trial date had not been set.

In this case, the parties have done no discovery. The Court has not entered a case management order much less set a trial date. Other than the service of the Complaint, the filing of Answers, and the submission of *pro hac* petitions, virtually every aspect of the case remains (*e.g.*, written discovery, depositions, *Markman* briefing, *Markman* ruling, expert reports, dispositive motions and rulings, pretrial papers, and setting a trial date). Moreover, even if this case were at a later stage, courts have frequently determined that a stay is nevertheless warranted pending patent reexamination.¹⁴ As discovery has not even begun, much less a trial date set, this third and final factor also strongly supports Defendants’ request for a stay. *See, e.g., Alloc*, 2003 WL 21640372, at *3 (granting a stay where discovery had not begun, a discovery schedule not been entered, and no trial date had been set).

¹⁴ *Ralph Gonnocci*, 68 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1756-1760 (granting defendant’s motion to stay filed less than two months before trial was scheduled to commence and after extensive discovery); *Softview Computer Prods.*, No. 97 CIV. 8815 2000 WL 1134471, at * 3 (granting motion to stay after burdensome discovery); *Bausch & Lomb*, 914 F. Supp. at 953 (granting motion to stay after fact discovery was completed and trial date set); *Robert H Harris Co v Metal Mfg Co*, Civ. No. J-C-90-179, 1991 WL 217666, at * 4 (E.D. Ark. June 21, 1991) (granting motion to stay approximately one month before trial was scheduled to begin); *Grayling Indus., Inc. v GPAC, Inc.*, Civ. No. 1:89-CV-451-ODE, 1991 WL 236196, at * 3 (N.D. Ga. Mar. 25, 1991) (granting motion to stay after action had been pending for two years and pretrial order was signed); *Emhart Indus., Inc. v. Sankyo Seiki Mfg. Co.*, No. 85 C 7565, 1987 WL 6314, at *4 (N.D. Ill. Feb. 2, 1987) (granting motion to stay after discovery was completed); *Loffland Bros.*, 1985 WL 1483, at * 2 (granting motion to stay after substantial discovery, issuance of the pretrial order, and continuance of original trial date).

VI. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Defendants respectfully request that this Court grant Defendants' Motion to Stay Action Pending the Patent And Trademark Office's Reexamination of the Katz Patents, and that this Court enter Defendants' Proposed Order attached hereto.

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Dated: December 18, 2006

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Dated: December 18, 2006

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on December 18, 2006, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court using CM/ECF which will send notification of such filing(s) to the following and which has also been served as noted:

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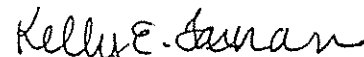
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EXHIBIT A

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

APPLERA CORPORATION, MDS INC., and APPLIED BIOSYSTEMS/MDS SCIEX INSTRUMENTS,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	Civil Action No. 04-1230 (GMS)
)	
v.)	
)	
THERMO ELECTRON CORPORATION,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
<hr/>		
THERMO FINNIGAN LLC,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	Civil Action No. 05-110 (GMS)
)	
v.)	
)	
APPLERA CORPORATION, MDS INC., and APPLIED BIOSYSTEMS/MDS SCIEX INSTRUMENTS,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
<hr/>		

ORDER

- On September 7, 2004, Applera Corporation, MDS Inc., and Applied Biosystems/MDS Sciex Instruments (collectively, "AB/Sciex") filed Civil Action No. 04-1230 against Thermo Electron Corporation ("Thermo Electron"), alleging infringement of U.S. Patent No. 4,963,736 (the "'736 patent"). On February 23, 2005, Thermo Finnigan LLC ("Thermo"), a subsidiary corporation of Thermo Electron, filed the above-captioned countersuit, Civil Action No. 05-110, against AB/Sciex, alleging infringement of U.S. Patent No. 6,528,784 (the "'784 patent"). On April 27, 2005, the court consolidated the 04-1230 action with the

05-110 action to streamline the discovery process and prevent duplicative litigation. Presently before the court, is AB/Sciex's motion to stay the 05-110 action pending reexamination of the '784 patent by the Patent and Trademark Office (the "PTO").¹ The present motion arises out of the parties' correspondence with the PTO following the filing of the 05-110 lawsuit.

2. On March 4, 2005, Thermo filed a request with the PTO for a broadening reissue of the '784 patent. On July 29, 2005, AB/Sciex filed a protest with the PTO regarding the reissue filing. Subsequently, on September 16, 2005, AB/Sciex filed a Request for Reexamination of the '784 patent with the PTO. On November 4, 2005, the PTO granted AB/Sciex's request. On November 18, 2005, AB/Sciex filed the present motion to stay the litigation of the '784 patent pending the outcome of the reexamination procedure.
3. AB/Sciex contends that a stay is appropriate because it would avoid a waste of the court's and the parties' resources. (D.I. 43, at 2.) According to AB/Sciex, waiting until the patent emerges from reexamination would focus the case for the following reasons: (1) the court will not need to revisit claim construction of the '784 patent to take into consideration the new intrinsic record created during the reexamination; (2) if the patent is declared invalid, the suit will, in all likelihood, be dismissed; (3) the outcome of reexamination may encourage settlement; (4) the reexamination record may focus the litigation and reduce the trial issues; and (5) the cost to the parties and court will most likely be reduced. (*Id.* at 3.) AB/Sciex further contends that allowing the case to proceed to trial without the

¹ For convenience, and because AB/Sciex's motion requests a stay of the 05-110 case, the court will cite to case documents using the D.I. number from the 05-110 case.

reexamination record would create a substantial risk of inconsistent rulings or the issuance of an advisory opinion if the PTO concludes that the patent is invalid. (*Id.*) Lastly, AB/Sciex contends that it is not attempting to gain a tactical advantage, and that a stay would not unduly prejudice Thermo.

4. Conversely, Thermo maintains that AB/Sciex's motion is merely a litigation tactic crafted by AB/Sciex to cause delay. (D.I. 56, at 1.) Thermo further asserts that granting the stay would be inefficient in that it would "undo the very efficiencies the court created by consolidat[ing the two cases]." (*Id.*) Additionally, Thermo asserts that it will be prejudiced if the court stays the case because it will be "delay[ed] in its ability to stop AB/Sciex's infringement." (*Id.* at 12.) Finally, Thermo asserts that if AB/Sciex "were sincere in its assertion that a stay is not prejudicial to the patentholder, it would offer to stay its claim on the '736 patent until the reexamination of the '784 patent is over, so that the parties and the [c]ourt can continue to benefit from the efficiencies of consolidation." (*Id.*)
5. After having considered the parties submissions on the issue (D.I. 42, 43, 56, 64), the court concludes that staying both cases best serves the interests of justice, and is the most efficient approach to the consolidated schedule that the court has envisioned for the litigation. The decision to stay a case is firmly within the discretion of the court. *See Cost Bros., Inc. v. Travelers Indem. Co.*, 760 F.2d 58, 60 (3d Cir. 1985). In determining whether a stay is appropriate, the court's discretion is guided by the following factors: "(1) whether a stay would unduly prejudice or present a clear tactical disadvantage to the non-moving party; (2) whether a stay will simplify the issues in question and trial of the case; and (3) whether discovery is complete and whether a trial date has been set." *Xerox Corp. v. 3 Comm Corp.*,

69 F. Supp. 2d 404, 406 (W.D.N.Y. 1999) (citing cases); *cf. United Sweetener USA, Inc. v. Nutrasweet Co.*, 766 F. Supp. 212, 217 (D. Del. 1991) (stating a similar test).

6. In the present case, Thermo asserts that a stay will prejudice it in that it will be unable to enforce its patent. The court is not persuaded. First, Thermo's position assumes that the PTO will leave the claims of the '784 patent unaltered after reexamination. Further, while Thermo may suffer some prejudice from a stay, the court is not persuaded that a stay would *unduly* prejudice Thermo, or present a clear tactical disadvantage. On the other hand, granting the stay will simplify the issues and focus the litigation. For example, if the PTO determines that some or all of the claims of the '784 patent are invalid, then many of the issues in the litigation would become moot. A stay, therefore, will conserve the resources of the parties and the court, thereby promoting efficiency. Moreover, the court would not run the risk of inconsistent rulings or issuing advisory opinions. *See Gioello Enters. Ltd. v. Mattel, Inc.*, No. C.A. 99-375 GMS, 2001 WL 125340, at *1 (D. Del. Jan. 29, 2001).
7. Additionally, due to the consolidated nature of the instant cases, as well as the legal and factual overlap of issues, and technology disclosed in the '736 and '784 patents, the court believes that the most efficient and practical way to proceed with the litigation is to stay both cases until the '784 patent reexamination ends.
8. Lastly, fact discovery is not scheduled to close until March 17, 2006 and, although already set, the trial of these matters is not scheduled to take place until December 4, 2006. Thus, the court concludes that the balance of harms weighs in favor of granting the stay for both cases.

Therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. AB/Sciex's Motion to Stay This Action Pending Reexamination of the Patent in Suit (D.I. 42) is GRANTED.
2. Thermo's request to stay the 04-1230 litigation pending reexamination of the '784 patent (D.I. 56) is GRANTED.
3. The parties shall notify the court when the PTO issues its reexamination decision.

Dated: December 28, 2005

/s/ Gregory M. Sleet
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

3. Attached hereto as Exhibit 2 is a true and correct copy of the PTO's *Ex Parte* Reexamination Filing Data (March 31, 2006), which was "Exhibit A" to Katz's December 4, 2006, Supplemental Claim Construction Brief Addressing New Evidence, (5:05-CV-142-DF)(E.D. Tex. 2006).

4. Attached hereto as Exhibit 3 is a true and correct copy of excerpts from Katz's July 17, 2006 Reexamination Response (Reexam Control No. 90/006,978).

5. Attached hereto as Exhibit 4 is a true and correct copy of excerpts from the PTO's September 8, 2006, Office Action (Reexam Control No. 90/007,697).

6. Attached hereto as Exhibit 5 is a true and correct copy of excerpts from the PTO's September 29, 2006, Office Action (Reexam Control No. 90/006,978).

7. Attached hereto as Exhibit 6 is a true and correct copy of excerpts from Katz's October 26, 2006 Reexamination Response (Reexam Control No. 90/007,697).

8. Attached hereto as Exhibit 7 is a true and correct copy of the PTO's October, 12, 2006, Examiner Interview Summary (Reexam Control No. 90/007,697).

Executed this 18th day of December, 2006, in Wilmington, Delaware.


Kelly E. Farnan

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on December 18, 2006, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court using CM/ECF which will send notification of such filing(s) to the following and which has also been served as noted:

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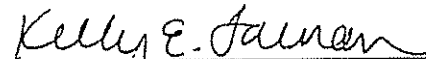
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EXHIBIT 1

BEFORE THE JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

In re:

Katz Interactive Call Processing Patent
Litigation

MDL Docket No. 1816

PLAINTIFF RONALD A. KATZ TECHNOLOGY LICENSING, L.P.'S
RESPONSE TO DEFENDANT TARGET'S MOTION FOR TRANSFER AND
CONSOLIDATION OF KATZ INTERACTIVE CALL PROCESSING PATENT
LITIGATION PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 1407

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Attorneys for Plaintiff
Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing, L.P.

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. Section 1407 and Rules 7.1(b) and 7.2(c) of the Rules of Procedure of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, Plaintiff Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing, L.P. ("Katz"), respectfully submits this Opposition to the Motion for Transfer and Consolidation of Katz Technology Licensing Patent Litigation ("Motion") filed by Defendants Target Corporation, Target Bank, and Target National Bank (collectively "Target"), dated October 17, 2006. Katz' Opposition is supported by the accompanying Memorandum of Law, the Declaration of Nathan K. Cummings (Exhibit 1), the Declaration of Christine K. Hsieh (Exhibit 2) and Exhibits 3 through 38; all exhibits are contained in the Appendix of Exhibits, served and filed herewith.

1. Katz admits that Target's Motion seeks to transfer and consolidate twenty-five actions and that Target attaches a schedule of twenty-five actions as Exhibit A. Katz denies that it initially filed twenty-five actions for patent infringement and that it filed twenty-three of those actions within the last two months as stated by Target. As pertinent to the Motion, Katz filed ten patent infringement actions, five in the Eastern District of Texas, five in the District of Delaware (the "Katz Actions") and, as subsequently amended, the actions name 175 defendants. Katz filed two of those actions in the Lufkin Division of the Eastern District of Texas: *Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing, L.P. v. Chevron Corporation, et al.*, No. 9:06-CV-178 (Lufkin Division); and *Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing, L.P. v. Alltel Corporation, et al.*, No. 9:06-CV-177 (Lufkin Division). The assigned judge in Lufkin *sua sponte* divided those two cases into fifteen separate actions, indicating that he intends to jointly administer the cases. Katz further admits that each of the Katz Actions was designated as a related case to the earlier filed case, *Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing L.P. v. Citibank, N.A.*, 5:05-CV-142 ("Citibank Action").

2. Katz admits that it is a limited partnership organized under the laws of the State of California and having a principal place of business in Los Angeles, California and further admits that Ronald A. Katz is the founder of Katz and is the sole named inventor of each of the patents asserted in the Katz Actions.

3. Katz admits that each of the Katz Actions involves patents Katz refers to as

“interactive call processing patents.” Katz further admits that more than fifty United States patents have issued to Ronald A. Katz for his inventions in the interactive call processing field, including the twenty-seven patents asserted in the Katz Actions.

4. Katz admits that the Katz Actions assert that each of the defendants infringe certain of Katz’s interactive call processing patents by making, using, offering to sell and/or selling automated telephone systems.

5. Katz admits that it has previously filed two infringement actions involving some of its interactive call processing patents and that the two courts in which those actions were filed have some experience with some of Katz’s interactive call processing patents. Katz further admits that some of the patents involved in this litigation were previously asserted in *Katz v. AT&T Corporation* and related companies in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in 1997 and that Judge Lowell A. Reed issued a 63-page claim construction order in connection with that case found at 63 F.Supp.2d 583 (E.D. Pa. 1999) and which speaks for itself. Katz denies that the order construed claim terms from five of the patents; Judge Reed’s order construed terms from six of the patents.

6. Katz admits that fourteen of its patents involved in the Katz Actions were the subject of a declaratory judgment action and related counterclaim in the United States District Court for the Central District of California styled *Verizon Cal., Inc. v. Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing, L.P.*, No. 1-CV-9871 (C.D. Cal.) (“the *Verizon* case”), and that two additional Katz patents were at issue in that case which are not at issue in the Katz Actions. Katz further admits that the case was assigned to Judge R. Gary Klausner and that the case was pending in that Court for two years and eight months. Katz denies Target’s characterization of the *Verizon* case as “closely-related” to the Katz Actions in that, while certain overlapping patents were at issue, the defendants in that action were different and those defendants’ systems were unique to each defendant in that case. Katz admits that the *Verizon* case settled six weeks before trial was set to commence.

7. Katz admits that in the claim construction order issued in the *Verizon* case on June 23, 2003, which can be found at 326 F.Supp.2d 1060 (C.D. Cal. 2003) and which speaks for itself, Judge Klausner construed some of the same terms from the Katz patents at issue in the *AT&T* case, as well as some terms not previously construed by Judge Reed in the *AT&T* case. Judge Klausner construed terms from only ten of the patents involved in the Katz Actions.

8. Katz admits that cross motions for summary judgment were made in the *Verizon* case. Judge Klausner's orders and the proceedings including the dismissals subsequent thereto are matters of record in the *Verizon* action and speak for themselves.

9. Katz admits that it filed a lawsuit in July 2005 styled *Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing, L.P. v. Citibank N.A., et al.*, No. 5:05-CV-142 (E.D. Tex.) (Texarkana Division) against multiple defendants. Katz further admits that its amended complaint in the *Citibank* case asserted twenty-two (22) of the Katz interactive call processing patents. Katz admits that Judge Folsom on August 1, 2006 issued the following Order:

ORDERED that in addition to the 10 patent claims selected by Plaintiff on May 16, 2006 (Docket No. 128), Plaintiff is permitted to select up to 8 additional patent claims under the following restrictions: (1) each additional patent claim selected by Plaintiff must come from a patent not previously asserted in the patent claims selected on May 16, 2006 (Docket No. 128); (2) only one claim per patent may be selected; (3) each additional claim selected must come from the set of 48 claims asserted by Plaintiff against the Defendants in Plaintiff's Supplemental Disclosures of Asserted Claims and Preliminary Infringement Contentions, served on February 27, 2006; and (4) each of the additional selected claims may only be asserted against a defendant against whom that claim was previously asserted pursuant to Plaintiff's Supplemental Disclosures of Asserted Claims and Preliminary Infringement Contentions. It is further

ORDERED that with respect to patents from which Plaintiff did not select any of its 10 claims on May 16, 2006 (Docket No. 128) and for which Plaintiff does not select any of its up to 8 additional claims, the claims and counterclaims of all parties shall be severed pursuant to Rule 21 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedures, and the severed action along with any corresponding discovery shall be stayed.

10. Katz admits that on August 21, 2006, Katz filed five actions in three different divisions of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas and that subsequently the district court in the Lufkin Division *sua sponte* split two of these actions into fifteen separate actions, with the Court noting that it would manage the cases in a coordinated

fashion. Katz admits that twenty separate actions are now pending in the Eastern District of Texas.

11. Katz admits that on September 1, 2006, it filed five additional actions in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware.

12. Katz admits that all of the twenty five actions were filed in federal court.

13. Katz admits that each of the actions alleges infringement of patents from Katz's interactive call processing patent portfolio and that some of the patents are asserted in more than one of the Katz Actions. Katz admits that attached to Target's Motion are two tables, Exhibits B and C which purport to show the asserted patents and the Katz Actions in which they are asserted in Texas and Delaware, respectively.

14. Katz admits that some of the answers and counterclaims filed to date in the Katz Actions assert some overlapping defenses of invalidity and unenforceability. Katz lacks sufficient information and knowledge to allow it to answer the balance of the purported averments set forth in paragraph 14 of Target's Motion and therefore denies them.

15. Katz denies that no answers have been filed in the Katz Actions and states that all defendants in some cases and the large majority of defendants across all cases have answered and counterclaimed and at least two case management conferences have been scheduled and one court has issued orders as part of his announced plan to jointly administer the cases. Katz admits that no trial date has yet been set in the Katz Actions. Katz admits that the *Discover* case resulting from Judge Folsom's August 1 Order was stayed in August 2006, pending final resolution of the *Citibank* case. Katz denies all remaining allegations in paragraph 15 of Target's Motion.

16. Katz admits that an Amended Docket Control Order dated May 8, 2006 in the *Citibank* case reflects that summary judgment motions are due to be filed February 2, 2007, and that trial is set to begin May 8, 2007.

17. Katz denies that there have been no substantive orders made in the *Citibank* or *Discover* cases. Judge Folsom has issued case management orders, orders regarding claim

selection, an order severing and staying claims and certain discovery orders. Judge Folsom has also presided over extensive briefing, a tutorial and a hearing on claim construction under the *Markman* decision and is expected shortly to issue his claim construction order. Katz admits that the *Citibank* case is not within six weeks of trial as was the *Verizon* case at the time it settled but states that it is far advanced toward trial with extensive substantive work accomplished to date. Katz further states that the claim construction order which is imminent will trigger deadlines that will move the *Citibank* case quickly toward trial.

18. Katz admits that a claim construction hearing was held in the *Citibank* case on September 20, 2006 and admits that Target and American Airlines filed emergency motions in the *Citibank* case seeking consolidation with the *Citibank* case of the cases in which Target and American Airlines, respectively, are defendants and continuance of that hearing. Katz admits that it opposed those motions and states that those motions were denied by Judge Folsom. Katz lacks information and knowledge sufficient to admit or deny the remaining allegations in this paragraph and therefore denies the averments.

19. Katz denies that Judge Klausner is the most experienced judge in the country with regard to the Katz patents. Katz submits that Judge Folsom is the judge with the most current and extensive knowledge of the Katz patents based on his management of the *Citibank* case for the past fifteen months, his substantive rulings on claim selection, his appointment of a technical expert, and the extensive briefing, tutorial and hearing before him on claim construction.

20. Katz admits that, due to the overlapping patents at issue in the Katz Actions, there will be some common issues of fact as to the technology underlying the patents and on validity and unenforceability issues but submits that, even as to those issues, there will be facts unique to each defendant and further submits that those common issues of fact are not so numerous as to warrant consolidation, particularly in light of the more numerous, complex and unresolved issues of infringement unique to each of the defendants.

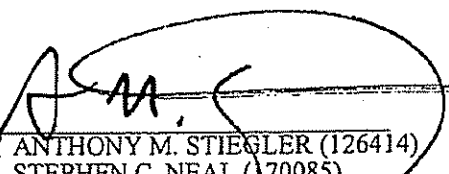
21. Katz denies that common issues of fact on damages predominate and, although Katz admits that Katz will seek damages in the form of a reasonable royalty, Katz submits that

fact issues on damages unique to each defendant will predominate because the majority of the Georgia-Pacific factors are defendant specific.

22. Denied. Consolidation and transfer of the Katz Actions is inappropriate because (i) insufficient common issues of fact exist in that each defendant's accused system is unique and presents individualized infringement and damages issues, (ii) the inconvenience to the parties, witnesses, and courts outweigh any purported efficiencies to be gained by consolidation and transfer, and (iii) the substantial disruption and delay of consolidation and transfer would impede the resolution of all the cases.

23. Denied. If the Panel decides that consolidation is appropriate, transfer to the Eastern District of Texas is the most logical because: (i) it has the greatest number of pending Katz Actions, (ii) it has the most recent knowledge and experience with the legal and factual issues; (iii) it is the most convenient and efficient venue for the largest number of parties; (iv) it is one of the most experienced patent litigation trial courts in the country and has implemented patent litigation rules to streamline such cases; (v) and has more docket capacity and ability to absorb these cases than the Central District of California.

Dated: November 3, 2006

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BEFORE THE JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

In re:

Katz Interactive Call Processing Patent
Litigation

MDL Docket No. 1816

**PLAINTIFF'S MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN OPPOSITION TO
TARGET'S MOTION FOR TRANSFER AND CONSOLIDATION
OF KATZ TECHNOLOGY LICENSING PATENT LITIGATION
PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 1407**

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RONALD A. KATZ TECHNOLOGY LICENSING, L.P.

Plaintiff Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing, L.P. ("Katz") submits this Memorandum of Law in Opposition to the Motion of Defendants Target Corporation, Target Bank, and Target National Bank (collectively "Target") for Transfer and Consolidation of Katz Technology Licensing Patent Litigation Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407 ("Motion").

I. INTRODUCTION

Consolidation and transfer of these patent infringement cases is not warranted because: (1) insufficient common issues of fact exist in that each defendant's accused system is unique and presents individualized infringement and damages issues; (2) neither convenience nor judicial efficiency would be achieved by imposing these numerous cases on a single court in an already over-burdened judicial district where no related case is currently pending; and (3) the substantial disruption and delay of consolidation and transfer would impede the resolution of all cases. Many of the defendants join Katz in opposing this motion and are working towards proposed stipulations to avoid duplicative discovery and to coordinate case management among the segregated cases. This indicates that many of those most familiar with these cases believe that the motion should be denied and would not yield efficiencies for the parties or courts.

Consolidation and transfer is particularly inappropriate because of the status of one of the cases, *Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing, L.P. v. Citibank, et. al.*, (the "Citibank case"), which is currently pending before the Hon. David Folsom in the Eastern District of Texas ("E.D. Texas") and is set for trial on May 8, 2007. The parties and the court have invested substantial resources on numerous substantive motions and case management matters, including issuance of a comprehensive scheduling order and case management plan, appointment of a technical expert for the court, a tutorial hearing, extensive *Markman* patent claim construction briefing and argument and multiple discovery activities and motions. Judge Folsom's *Markman* order is anticipated shortly and will inform the parties about the scope and interpretation of the patents, shape the litigation for expeditious movement to trial, and may foster settlement discussions, all of which would be disrupted and delayed by consolidation and transfer. Thus, while Katz urges that consolidation and transfer is not necessary at all, if the Panel concludes otherwise, the

Citibank case should be excluded from such an order.

If the Panel determines that consolidation and transfer is appropriate, the transferee court should be the E.D. Texas because it: (i) is in the state where more defendants reside than any other; (ii) is centrally located and most accessible to the largest number of parties and witnesses; (iii) has the infrastructure to support MDL litigation; (iv) has enacted and regularly administers a set of patent litigation rules enabling the expeditious and efficient resolution of patent cases; (v) is one of the plaintiff's two chosen venues; (vi) has the least crowded docket of any of the relevant districts which would likely be a transferee court; (vii) is the district in which the most cases are currently pending involving the Katz patents; and (viii) has current and extensive legal and practical experience with the Katz patents by virtue of the time and resources that the Court and its technical advisor have invested to manage and decide issues in the *Citibank* case. By contrast, Target's proposed venue, the Central District of California ("C.D. California"), has no Katz patent case currently pending, is one of the most over-burdened courts in the country and is inconvenient to the overwhelming majority of the defendants and witnesses.

The Katz cases are presently distributed among four federal judges who are well versed and skilled in patent litigation and who are already actively managing the cases. Contrary to the picture painted by Target, the cases are progressing expeditiously. Answers and counterclaims have been filed in most of the cases, at least two case management conferences are scheduled, and pre-discovery Rule 26 communications among counsel are well underway. Moreover, to the extent common issues exist about the technology, the patents, or their validity and/or enforceability, the potential for duplicative discovery is minimal because of the extensive prior litigation of the Katz patents, and because of the willingness of the non-movant parties to enter into stipulations to share and otherwise coordinate discovery and manage the cases. Conversely, consolidation of the patent actions, which undisputedly present unique issues of infringement and damages as to 175 defendants, and transfer of those cases to a single judge, would create an overwhelmingly complex proceeding certain to result in delay and added expense for all parties.

II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Katz is the plaintiff in actions pending in the E.D. Texas (filed in 2005 and 2006) and in the District of Delaware (filed in 2006). In total, there are dozens of defendant groups and 175 separate corporate defendants in these various actions, most of whom are large corporations with widespread businesses. Given the number of defendants, their size and their reach, it was not feasible for a single law firm to represent Katz against all of the defendants. Instead, Katz has two primary outside law firms handling these matters: (1) Cooley Godward Kronish LLP is counsel in all of the Texas cases; and (2) Heller Ehrman LLP is counsel in all of the Delaware cases. While jurisdiction and venue were the primary factors considered in selecting the two venues, ethical conflicts were also considered in dividing the defendants and filing in separate venues.¹

A. The Katz Patent Actions in the E.D. Texas

Katz owns a portfolio of interactive call processing patents which are directed to the integration of telephone systems with computer databases and live operator call centers to provide interactive call processing services, which are sometimes referred to as interactive voice response, or "IVR", systems. Katz has licensed its patents to over 150 companies and filed several patent infringement cases, all resolved prior to trial, including the *AT&T* and *Verizon* cases cited in Target's motion. There is also an extensive record of proceedings on the Katz patents before the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO"). In 2005 and again in 2006, Katz filed additional cases in the E.D. Texas and in the District of Delaware, as follows:

1. RAKTL v. Citibank et al., Civ. Action No. 5:05-CV-142-DF

In July 2005, Katz filed in the E.D. Texas, Texarkana Division, against defendants in three different industries, namely Citibank entities, Discover entities, T-Mobile entities and Wal-Mart entities (collectively the "*Citibank Defendants*"). The *Citibank* case was assigned to the

¹ While it would be possible to manage the conflict issues if the cases are consolidated, proper management of those ethical issues would be facilitated by allowing the cases to proceed in separate courts. We are aware of no prior published motion or proceeding before the JPML raises this type of conflict issue, it should be an appropriate factor for consideration and one that militates against consolidation of these cases.

Honorable David Folsom.² The *Citibank* case alleges infringement of 22 patents and is far advanced toward its May 8, 2007 trial date. In accordance with the Local Patent Rules implemented in E.D. Texas, on December 15, 2005, Katz served its preliminary infringement contentions. Each defendant then served its invalidity contentions, alleging indefiniteness, anticipation and obviousness and seeking to invalidate each of the claims asserted by Katz.³

In connection with the court's January 2006 Scheduling Conference, Judge Folsom gave considerable thought to managing a case involving the infringement of hundreds of claims in 22 patents, by scores of infringing systems, operated by different defendant groups in different industries, and took early steps to streamline the case. *See, e.g.*, Ex. 3, Joint Conference Report at 3, 8, 9, and Ex. 4, Defendants' Report in Response to Court's May 24, 2006 Order at 7-8. Judge Folsom set an aggressive schedule and has held the parties to it. Ex. 5, May 8, 2006 Amended Docket Control Order. Judge Folsom also identified and appointed a technical advisor, Mr. Gale R. Peterson, to advise the court on technology issues, and the court has now overseen all aspects of the *Citibank* case for more than 15 months, including all claim construction and discovery issues.

a. Judge Folsom's Management of the Number of Asserted Claims and Severance of the *Discover* Action

After extensive briefing in May and June 2006 Judge Folsom ordered that the parties would litigate representative claims from among the hundreds at issue in the case. At Judge Folsom's direction, Katz selected 18 representative claims from 16 different patents.⁴

b. Discovery and Other Pretrial Matters

Discovery in the *Citibank* case has progressed for almost a year. The parties have

² The facts concerning the *Citibank* case are supported by the Declaration of Nathan C. Cummings, Ex. 1, filed and served herewith ("Cummings Decl.").

³ In the course of these filings, the *Citibank* entities took a license to the Katz patents and were dismissed, leaving the *Discover*, T-Mobile and Wal-Mart entities as defendants.

⁴ On August 16, 2006 Judge Folsom issued a further order to preserve Katz's due process rights to assert additional patents infringed by the *Citibank* Defendants, severing the remaining patents into a separate action, which is stayed pending resolution of the current action. *See* Ex. 6, August 16, 2006 Order Severing Certain of Plaintiff's Claims and Defendants' Defenses and Counterclaims & Staying the Severed Action.

collectively produced over two million pages of documents and the defendants' document productions are ongoing. The parties have served, answered and supplemented their interrogatories and Katz has served Rule 34 notices to inspect defendants' call center premises and Rule 30(b)(6) deposition notices on various topics and recently took the depositions of T-Mobile, Wal-Mart and Discover employees. Judge Folsom has heard and decided a number of discovery issues throughout the case and currently has a number of issues under consideration.

c. The September 19-20, 2006 *Markman* and Tutorial Hearing

On September 19-20, 2006 Judge Folsom and his technical advisor held the court's *Markman*⁵ hearing and a technical tutorial presented by the parties. The court presently has those *Markman* issues under submission and the parties are awaiting the court's order. Defendants originally identified over 1600 terms for construction, and ultimately briefed about 40 terms, with one defendant, T-Mobile, briefing approximately 20 additional claim terms, and Katz briefing about 60 claim terms.⁶ The claim construction briefing took place between July through September 2006 and included 160 pages of detailed explanations of the IVR and call center services and technology to support the parties' claim term contentions.

Once the court issues its *Markman* order, a series of events and deadlines will be set in motion under the court's local rules that will put the *Citibank* case on the fast-track to trial.⁷ Consolidation and transfer would disrupt this case at a critical juncture, impose significant delay, and potentially waste substantial work product.

2. Recent Additional Patent Actions in the E.D. Texas

On August 21, 2006, Katz filed five new actions in the E.D. Texas, in different divisions to avoid overburdening any one judge, naming defendants who were selected and organized

⁵ *Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc.*, 517 U.S. 370; 116 S.Ct. 1384 (1996).

⁶ T-Mobile's addition of proposed terms reflects that differences in accused systems among defendants produce additional terms for construction, raising the potential for a very large number of claims for construction in a proceeding with 175 defendants.

⁷ For example, fact discovery closes 80 days after the order and the close of expert discovery is 60 days thereafter. Accordingly, the *Citibank* parties will be actively engaged in final fact and expert discovery, as well as in dispositive motion briefing over the next three to six months, all culminating in trial starting on May 8, 2007. Ex. 5, Amended Docket Control Order.

largely according to industries and/or use of similar accused systems.⁸ This grouping was designed to achieve case specific efficiencies, including allowing the selection of representative claims that are common to a discrete set of defendants.

a. RAKTL v. American Electric Power, et al.; RAKTL v. American Airlines, et al.

Two of the actions are pending before Judge Folsom: *Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing, L.P. v. American Electric Power Company, Inc.*, No. 5:06-CV-188 (E.D. Tex.) (Texarkana Division); and *Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing, L.P. v. American Airlines*, No. 2:06-CV-334 (E.D. Tex.) (Marshall Division). Including the severed *Discover* action, Judge Folsom presides over four of the Katz actions in the E.D. Texas. The *American Electric* action asserts 20 patents against 9 defendants in the energy/utility industries. All defendants have answered and counterclaimed and the Magistrate has set the Rule 26(f) conference for December 12, 2006. Ex. 7, Docket. The *American Airlines* action asserts 20 patents against 12 defendants in the travel and hospitality industry. All defendants but one have answered and counterclaimed. Ex. 8, Docket.

b. RAKTL v. Aetna

On August 21, 2006, Katz filed the *Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing, L.P. v. Aetna, Inc.*, No. 2:06-CV-335 (E.D. Tex.) (Marshall Division) case against defendants who provide automated prescription refills. This case was assigned to Judge Ward and asserts 19 patents against 15 defendants. All defendants but one have answered and counterclaimed. Ex. 9, Docket.

c. RAKTL v. Alltel; RAKTL v. Chevron

On August 21, 2006, Katz filed two actions in the Lufkin Division of the E.D. Texas: *Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing, L.P. v. Chevron Corp., et al.*, No. 9:06-CV-178 (E.D. Tex.) (Lufkin Division); and *Ronald A. Katz Tech. Licensing, L.P. v. Alltel Corp., et al.*, No. 9:06-CV-

⁸ Katz filed a sixth action, *RAKTL v. Genesys Conferencing, Inc.*, E.D. Tex. Case No. 5:06-CV-187; Target appropriately excluded the *Genesys* Case from its Motion because different patents are asserted in that case.

177 (E.D. Tex.) (Lufkin Division). The *Chevron* case focuses primarily on defendants in the financial services area, while the *Alltel* case focuses on defendants in the communications industry. The cases were assigned to Judge Clark who, on September 7, 2006, *sua sponte* divided them into fifteen separate actions "to promote efficiency and administrative ease" for the Court. See Target Ex. 13, *Chevron* Order, and Target Ex. 12, *Alltel* Order. Judge Clark has indicated that he will jointly administer these cases "to promote efficient use of judicial and party resources." *Id.* All defendants in the *Chevron* case have answered and counterclaimed. All defendants but three in the *Alltel* case have answered and counterclaimed. Exs. 10 to 24, Dockets.

B. The Katz Patent Actions in the District of Delaware

On September 1, 2006, Katz, through the Heller Erhman LLP firm for the aforementioned conflict of interest purposes, filed an additional five cases in the District of Delaware against defendants with a jurisdictional nexus to that venue. These actions are all pending in the Wilmington Division before Judge Gregory Sleet, who is an experienced jurist well able to manage large patent litigation cases with multiple parties. In four of the actions, all defendants have already answered and counterclaimed. In the fifth action, Katz filed a first amended complaint on October 25, 2006. Exs. 25 to 29, Dockets. Katz understands that a significant majority of the Delaware defendants oppose Target's motion for consolidation and desire to remain in Delaware.

III. CONSOLIDATION IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR THESE CASES AND WOULD FRUSTRATE THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PARTIES AND JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY

To grant a motion for transfer and consolidation the Panel must find that (a) the actions involve common issues of fact, (b) transfer would be for the convenience of the parties and witnesses, and (c) transfer would promote the just and efficient conduct of the actions. 28 U.S.C. § 1407. Transfer and consolidation are, however, not automatic even where multiple actions raise some similar issues. *In re Truck Accident Near Alamogordo*, 387 F. Supp. 732, 733 (J.P.M.L. 1975) ("the existence of common, if not identical, common questions of fact ... is not

sufficient, by itself to warrant transfer"). The crucial question on this motion is whether Target has shown that, even notwithstanding some overlap in questions of fact, the economies of transfer outweigh the resulting inconvenience to the parties. *In re "East of the Rockies" Concrete Pipe*, 302 F. Supp. 244, 253 (J.P.M.L. 1969).

Target fails to show that common questions of fact are sufficiently numerous, complex or unresolved to justify consolidation and Target does not explain how common issues of patent validity and enforceability will predominate, given that unique issues of fact about infringement and damages will exist for each of the 175 defendants. Target also fails to show that consolidation and transfer would be more convenient or produce efficiencies for the parties and witnesses. Finally, Target also fails to address the willingness of the non-movant parties to cooperate and coordinate in discovery and case management, as well as the disruption and delay certain to follow any consolidation of cases with 175 defendants in an already burdened and geographically inconvenient forum.

A. The Issues are Not Sufficiently Numerous, Complex, or Unresolved to Justify Consolidation and Transfer

The moving party has the burden of demonstrating that common factual questions are sufficiently complex, or that the associated discovery is so time consuming, that transfer is justified. 28 U.S.C. § 1407; *In re Eli Lilly & Co. (Cephalexin Monohydrate) Patent Litig.*, 446 F. Supp. 242, 243-44 (J.P.M.L. 1978). If movant fails to carry its burden, consolidation and transfer should be denied, even for a large number of actions in several districts. *See In re Dupont Benelate Settlement Agreement Litig.*, No. 1340, 2000 U.S. Dist. Lexis 7378 (J.P.M.L. 2000).

1. Proof of Patent Infringement Presents Unique Fact Questions for Each Defendant

As a matter of law, proof of patent infringement is distinct as to each defendant and its technology. *Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc.*, 517 U.S. 370, 374; 116 S.Ct. 1384, 1388, (1996) ("Victory in an infringement suit requires a finding that the patent claim 'covers the

alleged infringer's product or process'..."); *Southwall Technologies, Inc. v. Cardinal I G Co.*, 54 F.3d 1570, 1575 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (proof of infringement is a question of fact and requires establishing that every limitation of a claim is found in an accused product or method). Here, each defendant operates different customized systems and processes and, accordingly, there will be few if any common factual questions about the 175 defendants' infringement.⁹ The challenge would be greatly exaggerated in a consolidated case with 175 defendants, in different industries, employing different IVR systems and methods, all or many of which implicate infringement of different patent claims.

2. Proof of Patent Infringement Damages Presents Unique Fact Questions for Each Defendant

Target asserts that the reasonable royalty factors used in calculating patent damages under *Georgia-Pacific Corp. v. United States Plywood Corp.*, 318 F. Supp. 1116, 1120 (S.D.N.Y. 1970) will present common fact questions among the actions. In fact, of the 15 *Georgia Pacific* factors considered when assessing a patent "reasonable royalty" measure of damages, nine factors involve facts particular to each separate defendant. Only six focus on the plaintiff or the general industry.¹⁰ Thus, the focus of damages discovery and analyses will be far

⁹ Target concedes that "... there will be differences in the telephone services of the defendants involved in the various actions ..." (Mot. at 12.), thus recognizing that different systems will necessarily require different discovery and proof of infringement. Target glosses over this issue by citing cases where the Panel found that overlapping patents in several actions could be expected to present common fact questions, including *In re Acacia Media Techs. Corp. Patent Litig.*, 360 F. Supp. 2d 1377, 1379 (J.P.M.L. 2005); *In re Pharmastem Therapeutics, Inc. Patent Litig.*, 360 F. Supp. 2d 1362, 1364 (J.P.M.L. 2005); and *In re MLR, LLC, Patent Litig.* 269 F. Supp. 2d 1380 (J.P.M.L. 2003). These cases are distinguishable, however. In *Acacia*, there were only 64 defendants, the majority of whom were in the same industry and all parties agreed to, or did not contest, consolidation. *Acacia*, 360 F. Supp. 2d at 1378. Similarly, in *Pharmastem*, there were only 31 defendants, all of whom were in the same industry, and only three parties opposed transfer and consolidation. *Pharmastem*, 360 F. Supp. 2d at 1363. In *MLR*, there were only 11 defendants, all in the same industry, and only two parties opposed the MDL motion. *MLR*, 269 F. Supp. 2d at 1380. In contrast, the present case involves 175 defendants in different industries, a substantial number of whom oppose consolidation.

¹⁰ The nine defendant-specific factors include: (1) the rates paid by the defendant for use of comparable patents; (2) the territory and customers of the licensee for the licensed technology; (3) the effect of using the patented specialty in promoting sales of the licensee's other goods or services; (4) the licensee's commercial success with the patented technology; (5) the extent of the licensee's infringing use of the patented technology; (6) the portion of licensee's profit attributable to use of the patented technology; (7) the opinion testimony of qualified experts retained by each

more heavily directed to each defendant's discrete infringement and the value that each defendant derived from its use of the patented inventions.

3. Patent Validity and Enforceability Have Been Previously and Thoroughly Discovered and Litigated

Target asserts that issues of validity,¹¹ enforceability and prosecution history estoppel¹² will be common among the cases due to the overlapping patents at issue. On the facts of these cases, however, consolidation is not likely to produce significant efficiencies. During prior litigations over the Katz patents, defendants have raised numerous affirmative defenses, most of which overlap with the current defendants' contentions. Defendants in the prior cases identified and filed voluminous information on the prior art and all of that prior case material is readily available to Target and the other defendants and can be shared. There is likewise an extensive public record of proceedings on the Katz patents before the USPTO and given this extensive history and publicly available collections of documents, it is unlikely that validity or unenforceability issues will produce significant additional discovery or fact issues.

4. The Risk of Inconsistent Rulings on Claim Construction or Other Issues Does Not Warrant Consolidation

Target incorrectly argues that risk of inconsistent pretrial rulings on the issue of patent claim construction justifies transfer and consolidation, but as Target admits, "it is the obligation of each district court to construe the claims of a patent as a matter of law." (Mot. at 15); *see also, Markman, supra.*, 517 U.S. at 388-391. Claim construction is a pretrial issue of law

licensee; (8) the nature and scope of the license; and (9) the amount the prudent licensee would have been willing to pay for a license in an arm's length negotiation. *Georgia-Pacific Corp., supra.*

¹¹ Validity is primarily a matter of prior art and expert opinion. *Union Oil Co. of California v. Atlanta Richfield Co.*, 208 F.3d 989, 994-95 (Fed. Cir. 2000), cert. denied, 531 U.S. 1183 (2001) (Proving a patent invalid under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires showing that allegedly invalidating prior art contains each and every element of a claim); *Koito Mfg. Co Ltd. v. Turn-Key-Tech LLC*, 381 F.3d 1142, 1152 (Fed. Cir. 2004) ("typically, testimony concerning anticipation must be testimony from one skilled in the art...").

¹² Unenforceability and the application of prosecution history estoppel concern prior art and the record of prosecution of the patent before the USPTO. *See FMC Corp v. Manitowoc Co., Inc.* 835 F.2d 1411, 1415 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (establishing unenforceability through inequitable conduct requires clear and convincing proof of knowing failure to disclose material information, such as prior art, to the PTO in prosecution of the patent.) *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co, Ltd.*, 535 U.S. 722, 735 (2002) ("[Prosecution history] estoppel has been discussed most often in the context of amendments made to avoid the prior art.").

reserved by the U.S. Supreme Court to each district court. *Id.* An issue of law, of course, is not an appropriate basis for MDL consolidation. *In re U.S. Navy Variable Reenlistment Bonus Litig.*, 407 F. Supp. 1405, 1406-07 (J.P.M.L. 1976) (transfer of actions for consolidated pretrial proceedings is unwarranted where common questions of law, rather than fact, predominate). Thus, while each defendant will have an opportunity to litigate the claim construction issues it believes are critical to its case, it is likely that the number of claim terms necessary to be construed will be reduced as a result of these prior rulings, including the expected ruling in the *Citibank* case.

Likewise, the May 8, 2007 trial in the *Citibank* case is fast-approaching. Resolution of issues in *Citibank* case may thus obviate or reduce the need for further litigation and allowing the *Citibank* case to proceed to trial will conserve judicial resources and reduce expense and inconvenience to the litigants.

B. Consolidation and Transfer Would Not Promote Convenience and Judicial Economy

1. Many of the Parties Do Not Support Consolidation and Transfer

To date, many of the 175 defendants have expressed the intention to oppose Target's motion. Consolidation and transfer has been denied where not all parties in the relevant actions support it. *In re Accuscan, Inc., Automatic Background Contrast Control Patent Litig.*, No. 1145, 1996 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 17696 (J.P.M.L. Nov. 26, 1996). The parties are best situated to evaluate the benefits and disadvantages of transfer and consolidation and the significant opposition here speaks volumes about the parties' evaluations that the current separate cases presents the most convenient and efficient means of managing and resolving these cases.

2. The E.D. Texas and the District of Delaware Chose Not to Consolidate the Katz Actions Pending In Those Districts.

Districts have the discretion to *sua sponte* consolidate pending actions if they believe that consolidation would promote convenience, efficiency and administrative ease. *See* F.R.C.P. 42(a); *Devlin v. Transportation Communications Int'l Union*, 175 F.3d 121, 130 (2nd Cir. 1999).

To date, neither the E.D. of Texas or the District Court of Delaware has chosen to consolidate the Katz actions within their districts, and at least Judge Clark in the E.D. Texas *severed* the cases pending in his court to promote efficiency and administrative ease, while acknowledging that he will manage the cases in a coordinated fashion.¹³

3. Alternative Methods Are Available to Achieve Efficiencies That Do Not Entail the Burdens and Delay Inherent in Consolidation

Where there are alternative methods to prevent duplicative discovery and inconsistent pretrial rulings, consolidation is not warranted. *In re Commonwealth Sci. & Indus. Research Org. Patent Litig.*, 395 F.Supp. 2d 1357-58 (J.P.M.L. 2005). This is especially true when the parties have displayed past willingness to coordinate their discovery efforts. *In re Cable Tie Patent Litig.*, 487 F. Supp. 1351, 1353 (J.P.M.L. 1980). That cooperation exists here, where many parties are considering proposed stipulations to avoid duplicative discovery and to coordinate case management across all cases. It is the goal that the stipulations will encompass at least the following:

- coordinated document production by Katz with a protocol to be developed for common Bates numbering;
- coordinated deposition discovery on common issues to avoid duplicative examination of witnesses;
- coordinated third-party subpoena practice with respect to licensees, prior art witnesses and vendors;
- adoption of protective orders with common terms;
- admissibility of third-party discovery, including licensees, prior art witnesses and vendors.

The parties also have the mutual goal to work towards coordinated protocols or stipulations regarding *Markman* briefing and case management including:

- streamlining the claim selection process;

¹³ The five cases in Delaware were all assigned to Judge Gregory Sleet and are pending separately as independent cases. Exs. 25 to 29, Dockets.

- agreeing to sequential patent disclosures and other features of a set of acceptable local court patent rules addressing claim construction and case management, subject to court approval;
- coordinating claim construction briefing schedules to the extent possible and avoiding duplication of effort on common construction issues;
- agreeing to the appointment of a technical advisor for the courts.

The parties intend to further explore and develop a consolidated and/or coordinated summary judgment procedure on common issues to the extent possible to avoid duplication of effort. It is contemplated that a steering committee made up of representatives of both sides of the actions in the E.D. Texas and the District of Delaware will be selected to finalize the details of these coordination activities for the pretrial proceedings in all cases.

IV. IF THE PANEL BELIEVES CONSOLIDATION IS JUSTIFIED, THE *CITIBANK* CASE SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE CONSOLIDATION AND TRANSFER ORDER.

The Panel should exclude the *Citibank* case from any multidistrict litigation order because of its advanced state. It appears that no party to the *Citibank* case has joined Target's motion. The anticipated *Markman* ruling from Judge Folsom will likely inform all parties about the merits of their cases and pave the way for summary judgment and/or trial or, as many defendants in other cases have chosen, settlement. Such considerations are precisely why the Panel recognizes that advanced actions are inappropriate for consolidation with recently filed cases. *In re Nifedipine Capsule Patent Litig.*, No. 774, 1988 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 17025, at *2 (J.P.M.L. Oct. 13, 1988) (excluding from transfer one action which was nearing close of discovery on the basis that it was distinct from more recently filed actions).

V. IF CONSOLIDATION IS ORDERED THE E.D. TEXAS SHOULD BE THE TRANSFEREE COURT

If the Panel concludes that consolidation and transfer are appropriate, it should transfer the cases to Judge Folsom in the E.D. of Texas.

A. The E.D. Texas Has the Greatest Number of Pending Katz Actions

Target's proposal to transfer all of the Katz cases to a district that is already overburdened, where no action is pending and where the cases have no substantial nexus, is disfavored and without basis.¹⁴ The Panel regularly transfers actions to the District Court having the *greatest* number of relevant pending actions. See, e.g., *In re Fosamax Prods. Liab. Litig.*, 444 F. Supp. 2d 1347, 1349-50 (J.P.M.L. 2006). The Panel has traditionally been reluctant to send consolidated cases to a district where *no* actions are pending. *In re Mailblocks, Inc.*, 279 F. Supp. 2d 1379, 1381 (J.P.M.L. 2003). As of September 30, 2006, there were 280 pending multidistrict litigations, and only thirteen of these were transferred to a district where no actions were pending. Hsieh Decl. ¶ 3; Ex. 30, Statistical Analysis of Multidistrict Litigation 2006. In 2005, only nine out of 259 pending multidistrict litigations were transferred to a district where no actions were pending. Hsieh Decl. ¶ 3; Ex. 31, Statistical Analysis of Multidistrict Litigation 2005. In those rare instances of transfer to a district where no action was pending, the Panel has acknowledged that its selection of that transferee court was the exception, and that its decision to do so was premised on the strong factual nexus between the action and the forum. See, e.g., *In re Sundstrand Data Control, Inc. Patent Litig.*, 443 F. Supp. 1019, 1020 (J.P.M.L. 1978).

When Judge Clark's severance of the *Alltel* and *Chevron* cases is taken into account, there are 20 Katz cases pending in the E.D. Texas, five pending in the District of Delaware, and *none* pending in the C.D. California.¹⁵ Transfer to the district where the most actions are pending requires the fewest parties to be displaced. The C.D. California should be excluded from consideration because there are no currently pending actions in that district and because, as discussed below, transfer there would significantly inconvenience all parties. Such a transfer would further impose an undesired burden on one of the busiest District Courts in the country—and on the particular judge requested—and would squander the substantial judicial resources

¹⁴ Other than *In re Sundstrand Data Control, Inc. Patent Litig.*, 443 F. Supp. 1019, 1020 (J.P.M.L. 1978), Target cites no authority supporting its proposal. Although in *Sunstrand* the Panel did transfer actions to a district with no action pending, it did so because of the substantial nexus between the Western District of Washington and the common fact questions. *Id.* at 1021. Further, the Panel noted that none of the actions were significantly further advanced than the others.

¹⁵ Even if Judge Clark's severance orders were not considered there are seven cases pending in the E.D. of Texas.

invested by Judge Folsom and his court in the *Citibank* case.

B. The E.D. Texas is the Forum With the Most Recent Knowledge and Experience with the Legal and Factual Issues

The E.D. Texas has the most current judicial knowledge and experience with the Katz patents. The Panel has often transferred consolidated patent cases to the court having the greatest technological and legal familiarity with the issues involved. *In re Pharmastem Therapeutics, Inc. Patent Litig.*, 360 F. Supp. 2d 1362, 1364 (J.P.M.L. 2005).

Judge Folsom, his clerks, and particularly his technical advisor, have developed the most current detailed knowledge about the Katz patents and the parties' infringement and invalidity contentions as a result of the activities in the *Citibank* and *Discover* cases. Judge Folsom already has experience with twenty-two of twenty-seven patents alleged in all the cases.

In contrast, Judge Klausner's knowledge in the C.D. California is nearly three years old and he only construed claims from 10 of the Katz patents, compared to the 16 patents that Judge Folsom is currently construing in the *Citibank* case. Given Judge Folsom's recent and detailed knowledge of the Katz Actions, and given that he has four Katz Actions before him, the E.D. Texas would be the most logical choice of transferee districts.

C. The E.D. Texas is the Most Convenient and Efficient Venue

The location of the parties, witnesses, and evidence are important factors in choosing a transferee court. *In re Columbia University Patent Litig.*, 313 F. Supp. 2d 1383 (J.P.M.L. 2004). In most instances, and particularly in these cases, if consolidation is ordered, a geographically central location best serves the convenience of the parties. *In re Papst Licensing, GmbH Patent Litig.*, No. 1298, 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 15871 (J.P.M.L. Oct. 12, 1999).

Texas is the most central forum for the greatest number of defendants. Seventeen defendants reside in Texas, which is more than in any other state; 90 are located in the South and Midwest, and 56 are in the East. By comparison, only 29 of 175 defendants reside in the Western United States. 84% of defendants are closer to Texas than to California. *See Hsieh Decl. ¶ 2; Ex. 32, Location of Defendants by Region and by Suit.*

Further, the E.D. Texas has established a substantial infrastructure to host, house, and manage complex patent litigation. It has suitable hotels, restaurants, office space and amenities for the parties and their counsel and is accessible within a few hours from all corners of the country. Indeed, it has managed some of the highest profile and most complex patent litigation matters recently litigated, including: *Echostar Technologies v. TiVo, Inc., et al.*; *Broadcom Corp. v. Intel Corp.*; and *Ericsson, Inc. v. Qualcomm, Inc.*¹⁶

Target places undue emphasis on Katz's presence in Los Angeles and the possibility that some third party witnesses may be located there. However, the physical location of Katz's documents is irrelevant because they are digitized and ready for production anywhere in the country. Further, the possible presence in Los Angeles of a small number of third-party witnesses, many of whom are unidentified by Target, is substantially outweighed by the inconvenience transfer would impose on the parties to these cases.¹⁷

The E.D. Texas is also one of the plaintiff's selected venues and is the first-filed venue. The Panel has recognized the merit in transferring a consolidated patent case to the district with the first-filed case. *In re Mosaid Techs., Inc. Patent Litig.*, 283 F. Supp. 2d 1359, 1361 (J.P.M.L. 2003).

D. The E.D. Texas is One of the Most Experienced Patent Litigation Trial Courts in the Country and Has Implemented Patent Litigation Rules to Streamline Patent Cases

The E.D. Texas regularly presides over some of the most sophisticated and high-stakes patent matters in the nation. Judge Folsom alone has handled 110 patent cases over his career, and is well versed in patent law and procedures.¹⁸ Hsieh Decl. ¶ 4; Ex. 33, excerpt from LegalMetric Initial Judge Report of Judge Folsom Patent Cases.

¹⁶ In fact, Judge Folsom presided over all these cases. A list of the 110 patent litigation matters Judge Folsom has handled is attached as Ex. 33; see Hsieh Decl. ¶ 4.

¹⁷ To the extent these witnesses include the Katz patent prosecutors, they have been deposed in prior litigations and the transcripts of their testimony are available to Target.

¹⁸ Judge Klausner in the C.D. California has handled less than half as many patent cases as Judge Folsom. Ex. 34, excerpt from LegalMetric Initial Judge Report of Judge Klausner Patent Cases.

The E.D. Texas has implemented specific patent litigation rules designed to streamline and aid in the management of patent cases.¹⁹ Ex. 35, E.D. Texas Local Patent Rules, Appendix M. Cases expeditiously reach resolution or trial in the E.D. Texas, faster than in other districts. The median time to trial in the E.D. Texas is just 15.9 months, compared to 20.5 months in the C.D. California. *See* Hsieh Decl. ¶ 36; Exs. 36 to 38, Judicial Caseload Profile Statistics of the Administrative Office of the U.S. District Court.

E. A Comparison of Dockets Favors the E.D. Texas

The E.D. Texas is more capable of absorbing a consolidated case of the magnitude proposed than the C.D. California. The Panel ordinarily looks to the caseloads of the possible transferee districts to select the district with the most available resources. *Papst Licensing, supra*, 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS at *5-6. The Panel usually transfers consolidated actions to districts which have been “less burdened by the Panel with multidistrict dockets” than the other transferee fora. *In re Gemstar Dev. Corp. Patent Litig.*, No. 1274, 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 5905, at *4 (J.P.M.L. Apr. 26, 1999).

The E.D. Texas has only 379 pending cases per judge. The judges in the C.D. California are much busier, with 471 cases and thus the C.D. California case loads are nearly 25% heavier than that of the E.D. Texas. The lighter docket and specialized patent rules likely explain why cases resolve more quickly in the E.D. Texas.²⁰ In 2005, only 2.6% of cases in the E.D. Texas were over three years old, compared to 7.1% of cases in the C.D. California. Exs. 37 to 38, Judicial Caseload Profile Statistics of The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. The E.D. Texas also has a superior “weighted filings” metric compared the C.D. California (511 versus 575), meaning that each judge in the E.D. Texas manages fewer complex litigation matters than do the judges in the C.D. California. The E.D. Texas has more available resources to devote to a patent action of this magnitude and, as such, is a far superior choice of forum to efficiently and effectively manage these cases.

¹⁹ Notably, the C.D. California has no such patent case specific rules.

²⁰ The C.D. California has a faster median time to civil disposition, which likely reflects far more Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and other relatively simple civil cases associated with a much larger urban area.

VI. THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE WOULD ALSO BE AN APPROPRIATE TRANSFEREE COURT IF THE PANEL ELECTS TO CONSOLIDATE THE TEXAS AND DELAWARE CASES.

The District of Delaware also would be a sound choice for the transferee court, as compared to the C.D. California. The District of Delaware's 116 case annual case load per judge is significantly less than the 185 cases per judge for judges in the Central District of California.²¹ However, the Delaware judges handle a larger number of patent cases. Based upon PACER records for the five-year period ending September 30, 2006, there were 642 patent cases filed in the District of Delaware, which on average was 32 per year for each judge as compared to approximately 11 a year for judges in the C.D. California. Judge Sleet, who has been assigned the five related Delaware cases, has considerable experience with patent cases. In fact, the J.P.M.L. assigned a consolidated patent litigation to Judge Sleet just last year. *See In re Pharmastem Therapeutics, Inc., Patent Litigation*, 360 F. Supp. 2d 1362 (J.P.M.L. 2005). The District of Delaware also regularly assigns patent cases to a very experienced magistrate judge for mediation, who has mediated hundreds of patent cases.²²

VII. CONCLUSION

Target's motion should be denied because it fails to demonstrate that any purported efficiencies to be gained by consolidation and transfer outweigh the inconvenience to the parties, witnesses, and the Courts. In fact, there would be few, if any, efficiencies and the burdens to the parties would substantially outweigh those efficiencies. Fact issues, like patent infringement and damages, are unique to each defendant and the legal patent claim construction issues are irrelevant to the MDL decision. Moreover, it would be substantially more complex for one court to manage these disparate cases, as evidenced by the current Judges' decisions to keep the actions separate and in several instances to further divide the cases.

²¹ This is based upon the three-year period ending September 30, 2005 as reported by Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, with the data available at www.uscourts.gov at [judbus2005/appendices/x1a.pdf](#), [judbus2004/appendices/x1a.pdf](#), and [judbus2003/appendices/x1a.pdf](#).

²² In addition, the District of Delaware would be more convenient than the C.D. of California for the parties and witnesses. Almost half of the 175 individual defendants are within 500 miles of the District of Delaware's Wilmington courthouse; in contrast, there are only 16 defendants located in California.

Should the Panel decide consolidation is warranted, it should exclude the *Citibank* case from any consolidation. That case is in the advanced stages of pretrial preparation and any orders derailing it now would unduly burden the parties with needless delay and expense, would be wasteful of the parties' and judicial resources, and would eliminate an effective case management tool for the remaining cases.

Finally, should the Panel decide that transfer and consolidation is warranted, transfer to the E.D. Texas is most logical because it: (i) has the greatest number of pending Katz Actions; (ii) has the most recent knowledge and experience with the legal and factual issues; (iii) is the most convenient and efficient venue for the largest number of parties; (iv) is one of the most experienced patent litigation trial courts in the country and has implemented patent litigation rules to streamline cases; (v) and has more docket capacity and ability to absorb these cases than the C.D. California.

Dated: November 3, 2006

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BEFORE THE JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

In re:

**Katz Interactive Call Processing Patent
Litigation**

MDL Docket No. 1816

**APPENDIX OF THE TABLE OF AUTHORITIES OF PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO
TARGET'S MOTION FOR TRANSFER AND CONSOLIDATION
OF KATZ TECHNOLOGY LICENSING PATENT LITIGATION**

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the following documents:

Plaintiff's Response to Defendants Target's Motion for Transfer and Consolidation of Katz Interactive Call Processing Patent Litigation,

Plaintiff's Memorandum of Law in Opposition of Target's Motion for Transfer and Consolidation of Katz Interactive Call Processing Patent Litigation,

Appendix of the Table of Authorities in Opposition of Target's Motion for Transfer and Consolidation of Katz Interactive Call Processing Patent Litigation, and

Appendix of Exhibits in Opposition of Target's Motion for Transfer and Consolidation of Katz Interactive Call Processing Patent Litigation

were served on all counsel in compliance with Rule 5.2(a) of the Rules of Procedure of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation. Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing L.P.'s Response and Opposition to Defendant Target's Motion for Transfer and Consolidation of Katz Interactive Call Processing Patent Litigation Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407 were served via U.S. Mail on this 4th of November, 2006 according to the attached Panel Attorney Service List, and supplemented by the attached Service List.



Christine Hsieh

Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation - Panel Attorney Service List

Page 1

Docket: 1816 - In re Katz Interactive Call Processing Patent Litigation

Status: Pending on / /

Transferee District: Judge:

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Note: Please refer to the report title page for complete report scope and key.

(Panel Attorney Service List for MDL 1,816 Continued)

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Note: Please refer to the report title page for complete report scope and key.

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EXHIBIT 2

EXHIBIT A



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Ex Parte Reexamination Filing Data - March 31, 2006

1. Total requests filed since start of ex parte reexam on 07/01/81 7991
 - a. By patent owner 3283 41%
 - b. By other member of public 4543 57%
 - c. By order of Commissioner 165 2%

2. Number of filings by discipline
 - a. Chemical Operation 2476 31%
 - b. Electrical Operation 2561 32%
 - c. Mechanical Operation 2954 37%

3. Annual Ex Parte Reexam Filings

Fiscal Yr.	No.	Fiscal Yr.	No.	Fiscal Yr.	No.	Fiscal Yr.	No.
1981	78 (3 mos.)	1989	243	1997	376	2005	524
1982	187	1990	297	1998	350	2006	248
1983	186	1991	307	1999	385		
1984	189	1992	392	2000	318		
1985	230	1993	359	2001	296		
1986	232	1994	379	2002	272		
1987	240	1995	392	2003	392		
1988	268	1996	418	2004	441		

4. Number known to be in litigation 1858 23%

5. Determinations on requests 7772
 - a. No. granted 7088 91%
 - (1) By examiner 6982
 - (2) By Director (on petition) 106
 - b. No. denied 684 9%
 - (1) By examiner 649
 - (2) Order vacated 35

6. Total examiner denials (includes denials reversed by Director)	755			
a. Patent owner requester	428	57%		
b. Third party requester	327	43%		
7. Overall reexamination pendency (Filing date to certificate issue date)				
a. Average pendency	22.6 (mos.)			
b. Median pendency	17.5 (mos.)			
8. Reexam certificate claim analysis:	Owner Requester	3rd Party Requester	Comm'r Initiated	Overall
a. All claims confirmed	23%	29%	13%	26%
b. All claims cancelled	7%	12%	19%	10%
c. Claims changes	70%	59%	68%	64%
9. Total ex parte reexamination certificates issued (1981 - present)	5316			
a. Certificates with all claims confirmed	1385	26%		
b. Certificates with all claims canceled	543	10%		
c. Certificates with claims changes	3388	64%		
10. Reexam claim analysis - requester is patent owner or 3rd party; or Comm'r initiated.				
a. Certificates _ PATENT OWNER REQUESTER	2317			
(1) All claims confirmed	538	23%		
(2) All claims canceled	168	7%		
(3) Claim changes	1611	70%		
b. Certificates _ 3rd PARTY REQUESTER	2864			
(1) All claims confirmed	830	29%		
(2) All claims canceled	345	12%		
(3) Claim changes	1689	59%		
c. Certificates _ COMM'R INITIATED REEXAM	135			
(1) All claims confirmed	17	13%		
(2) All claims canceled	26	19%		
(3) Claim changes	92	68%		

EXHIBIT 3

Reexam. Nos. 90/006,978 & 90/007,074

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Examiner's Rejection (in the SOA)	Patentee's claim construction	Examiner's claim construction
<p>33. Claims 94 and 95 rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over <i>Yoshizawa</i> (p. 90)</p> <p>34. Claim 68 rejected under 103(a) over <i>Moosemiller</i> in view of <i>Emerson</i> (p. 99)</p> <p>Additional rejections</p> <p>35. Claims 30, 31, 105, 125, 126, 204, 205, and 207 rejected under 103(a) over <i>De Bruyn</i> in view of <i>Yoshizawa</i> (p. 108)</p> <p>36. Claims 62, 63, and 68 rejected under 103(a) over <i>Norris</i> in view of <i>Moosemiller</i> and further in view of <i>Yoshizawa</i> (p. 110)</p> <p>37. Claim 207 rejected under 103(a) over <i>Norris</i> in view of <i>Moosemiller</i> and further in view of <i>Yoshizawa</i> (p. 120)</p>	<p>(pages 55, 57, 60, 66, 71-73, 77, 98-100 of February 6 Response)</p>	
<p>38. Claim 25 rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over <i>Emerson</i> (p. 33)</p> <p>39. Claim 25 rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over <i>Barger</i> (p. 53)</p>	<p>"check digit"</p> <p>Claim 25 ; "check digit" must be interpreted for example, a key having a precise number of digits that always total a particular numerical value</p> <p>(e.g. page 65 of February 6 Response)</p>	<p>"check digit"</p> <p>Claim 25; "check digit" is interpreted as expressing a key with digits.</p> <p>(e.g. pages 38, 59, 155 and 165 of SOA)</p>

C. *The Examiner Improperly Ignored Prosecution Histories Which Inform and Validate the Claim Term "Consumable Participation Key"*

An additional, and equally compelling ground, for review of the SOA is that the Examiner erred in ignoring the prosecution history in the Patent Office. As noted in TABLE 1,

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the SOA rejected claims 12, 13, 17, 24, 25, 152 and 206 of the '707 patent based on interpreting "consumable participation key" as a limit that can be refreshed on a weekly basis (e.g. pages 18, 19, 30, 38, 58-59, 70-71, 113-114, 117-118, 120-121, 132-134, 144, 149, 151, 155, 158, 160, 164-166, 192-193 of SOA). This interpretation is totally at odds with not only the prosecution of the '707 patent but also with those of related patent histories that inform on this claim term.

The meaning of a claim term is ascertained by reference to intrinsic and extrinsic sources, with the extrinsic sources being consulted only if the intrinsic sources cannot resolve ambiguity.

Intrinsic sources are the claims themselves, the specification and the prosecution history.

Phillips v. AWH Corp., 415 F.3d 1303, 1317, 75 USPQ2d 1321 (Fed. Cir. 2005). The *Phillips* Court explained:

In addition to consulting the specification, we have held that a court "should also consider the patent's prosecution history, if it is in evidence." *Markman*, 52 F.3d at 980; *see also Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 33, 86 S.Ct. 684, 15 L.Ed.2d 545 (1966) ("[A]n invention is construed not only in the light of the claims, but also with reference to the file wrapper or prosecution history in the Patent Office."). The prosecution history, which we have designated as part of the "intrinsic evidence," consists of the complete record of the proceedings before the PTO and includes the prior art cited during the examination of the patent. *Autogiro*, 384 F.2d at 399. Like the specification, the prosecution history provides evidence of how the PTO and the inventor understood the patent. *See Lemelson v. Gen. Mills, Inc.*, 968 F.2d 1202, 1206 (Fed.Cir.1992). Furthermore, like the specification, the prosecution history was created by the patentee in attempting to explain and obtain the patent. ... [T]he prosecution history can often inform the meaning of the claim language by demonstrating how the inventor understood the invention and whether the inventor limited the invention in the course of prosecution, making the claim scope narrower than it would otherwise be. *Vitronics*, 90 F.3d at 1582-83; *see also Chimie v. PPG Indus., Inc.*, 402 F.3d 1371, 1384 (Fed.Cir.2005) ("The purpose of consulting the prosecution history in construing a claim is to 'exclude any interpretation that was disclaimed during prosecution.'"), *quoting ZMI Corp. v. Cardiac Resuscitator Corp.*, 844 F.2d 1576, 1580 (Fed.Cir.1988); *Southwall Techs., Inc. v. Cardinal IG Co.*, 54 F.3d 1570, 1576 (Fed.Cir.1995).

The reason that the intrinsic evidence, the claims, specification and prosecution history, is crucial is that it is the public record of the Patentee's claim, a record on which the public is entitled to rely. *Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc.*, 52 F.3d 967, 978-79, 34 USPQ2d 1321, 1329 (Fed. Cir. 1995), *aff'd* 517 US 370, 116 S.Ct. 1384, 134 L.Ed.2d 577 (1996).

Reexam. Nos. 90/006,978 & 90/007,074

Moreover, when a patent has the same or virtually identical disclosure as another patent, comments made during prosecution of either patent bear on the public's interpretation of like terms, *Depuy Orthopaedics Inc. v. Androphy*, 53 USPQ2d 1941, 1950 (N.D. Ill 2000), citing *Augustine Medical Inc. v. Gaymar Industries, Inc.*, 81 F.3d 1291, 1300, 50 USPQ2d 1900 (Fed. Cir. 1999); *Loral Fairchild Corp. v. Sony Corp.*, 50 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. 1999) (court found support for construing plaintiff's terms used in the claims of plaintiff's method patent by examining the prosecution history of plaintiff's contemporaneous prosecution of a divisional application directed to the apparatus).

TABLE 2 (see attached at the end as APPENDIX) presents the places in the prosecution histories of the 5,561,707; 5,684,863; 6,016,344; 5,359,645; 5,365,575; 5,787,156; 5,828,734; 5,898,762; 6,035,021; 6,335,965; 6,349,134; 6,434,223; 6,449,346; and 6,512,415 patents ("Related Patents") that inform construction of the term "consumable participation key" because they either share the same priority, disclosure or specification as the '707 patent or claims to priority from a parent that shares the same disclosure and specification. A review of the prosecution history of those Related Patents with regard to the term "consumable participation key," as summarized in TABLE 2, confirms that the term must be construed to mean a finite number of uses accorded to a caller in a defined or nonrecurring period of time that once consumed are not automatically refreshed. This interpretation is the only construction consistent with the intrinsic evidence and thus must be given deference. It is not, as the references cited by the SOA teach, something that is automatically refreshed each week (see e.g. De Bruyn, page 18 of the SOA).

As further demonstrated in detail below (Section III), when the term "consumable participation key" is properly construed, claims 12, 13, 17, 24, 25, 152, and 206 of the '707 patent are patentably distinct from the references cited in the SOA. Indeed, the prosecution histories themselves show that the De Bruyn and Barger references cited were distinguished (see TABLE 3, attached at the end as APPENDIX) on the same grounds. Accordingly, reinstatement of these claims is also consistent with the presumption that the Examiner correctly performed its duties during prosecution of the teaching patents, *Phillips v. AWH Corp.*, 415 F.3d 1303, 1327, 75 USPQ 2d 1321 (Fed Cir. 2005); and with only considering new questions of patentability during a reexamination procedure rather than revisiting the same issues considered during the original prosecution (MPEP 2216).

EXHIBIT 4



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
90/007,697	08/30/2005	5787156	2890-140	3448

35554 7590 09/08/2006

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EXAMINER

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2006

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EX PARTE REEXAMINATION COMMUNICATION TRANSMITTAL FORM

REEXAMINATION CONTROL NO. 90/007,697.

PATENT NO. 5787156.

ART UNIT 3992.

Enclosed is a copy of the latest communication from the United States Patent and Trademark Office in the above identified *ex parte* reexamination proceeding (37 CFR 1.550(f)).

Where this copy is supplied after the reply by requester, 37 CFR 1.535, or the time for filing a reply has passed, no submission on behalf of the *ex parte* reexamination requester will be acknowledged or considered (37 CFR 1.550(g)).

Office Action in Ex Parte ReexaminationControl No.
90/007,697Patent Under Reexamination
5787156Examiner
Erik KielinArt Unit
3992

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

- a ☐ Responsive to the communication(s) filed on _____. b ☐ This action is made FINAL.
 c ☒ A statement under 37 CFR 1.530 has not been received from the patent owner.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 2 month(s) from the mailing date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will result in termination of the proceeding and issuance of an *ex parte* reexamination certificate in accordance with this action, 37 CFR 1.550(d). EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE GOVERNED BY 37 CFR 1.550(c). If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892. 3. ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-474.
 2. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449. 4. ☐ _____.

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

- 1a. ☒ Claims 1-54 are subject to reexamination.
 1b. ☐ Claims _____ are not subject to reexamination.
 2. ☐ Claims _____ have been canceled in the present reexamination proceeding.
 3. ☒ Claims 2-5, 7-9, 11, 23 and 28-54 are patentable and/or confirmed.
 4. ☒ Claims 1, 6, 10, 12-22 and 24-27 are rejected.
 5. ☐ Claims _____ are objected to.
 6. ☐ The drawings, filed on _____ are acceptable.
 7. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ has been (7a) ☐ approved (7b) ☐ disapproved.
 8. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of the priority claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the certified copies have
 1 ☐ been received.
 2 ☐ not been received.
 3 ☐ been filed in Application No. _____.
 4 ☐ been filed in reexamination Control No. _____.
 5 ☐ been received by the International Bureau in PCT application No. _____.
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 9. ☐ Since the proceeding appears to be in condition for issuance of an *ex parte* reexamination certificate except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte* Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.
 10. ☐ Other: _____

cc: Requester (if third party requester)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTOL-455 (Rev. 04-01)

Office Action in Ex Parte Reexamination

Part of Paper No. 20060721

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DETAILED ACTION

References

- (1) Article by Eileen Norris entitled "Phone offers action at push of button," in Advertising Age, February 6, 1986 (*Norris*, hereafter)
- (2) Article by Yoshizawa et al. entitled "Voice Response System for Telephone Betting" in Hitachi Review 26(6), June 1977, pp. 215-220 (*Yoshizawa*, hereafter)
- (3) US 4,797,911 to Szlam et al. (*Szlam*, hereafter)
- (4) US Patent No. 3,622,995 to Dilks et al. entitled "Automatic Ticket/Credit Card Check-In System," filed March 21, 1969 (*Dilks*, hereafter)
- (5) Article by Moosemiller entitled "AT&T's Conversant™ I Voice System" in Speech Technology, Mar/Apr 1986, pp. 88-93 (*Moosemiller*, hereafter)
- (6) US Patent No. 4,922,519 to Daudelin entitled "Automated Operator Assistance Calls With Voice Processing" filed September 30, 1988, which is a continuation of Serial No. 860,651 filed May 7, 1986 (*Daudelin*, hereafter)
- (7) An industry report published by The Yankee Group entitled "Cable and the Telcos: From Confrontation to Détente," pp. 162-167 (June 1983), (*Yankee*, hereafter).
- (8) Patent No. US 4,755,872 to Bestler et al. entitled "Impulse Pay Per View System and Methods" filed July 29, 1985 (*Bestler*, hereafter).
- (9) The Voice, VCT Quarterly Newsletter, vol. 2, no. 3, Winter 1987 (*VCT*, hereafter).
- (10) US Patent No. 3,725,956 to Maxon et al. entitled "PBX Automatic Number Identification System," filed November 12, 1971 (*Maxon*, hereafter).
- (11) US Patent No. 4,438,824 to Mueller-Schloer entitled "Apparatus and Method for Cryptographic Identity Verification," filed April 22, 1981 (*Mueller*, hereafter)

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Status of Patent Being Reexamined

The patent being reexamined is US 5,757,156 to Ronald Katz (the '156 patent, hereafter). The '156 patent expired on 20 December 2005 by terminal disclaimer. With respect to expired claims under reexamination, MPEP 2258(G) states in pertinent part,

G. Claim Interpretation and Treatment

In a **reexamination proceeding involving claims of an expired patent**, which are not subject to amendment, a **policy of narrow construction** should be applied. Such a policy **favours a construction of a patent claim that will render it valid**; i.e., a **narrow construction**, over a broad construction that would render it invalid. See *In re Papst-Motoren*, 1 USPQ2d 1655 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1986). (Emphasis added.)

However, there exist prohibitions to the *Papst-Motoren* rule.

"It is recognized that the *Papst-Motoren* rule is **limited** by the prohibition against **reading limitations from the specification into the claims**, apart from the need to interpret **what the patentee meant by the words** of the claims." *Ex parte Bowles*, 23 USPQ2d 1015 (BPAI 1991) and the prohibition against **revising or ignoring the explicit language** of the claims. *Elekta Instrument S.A. vs. O.U.R. Scientific International, Inc.*, 214 F3d 1302, 1309 (Fed. Cir. 2000). (Emphasis added.)

Accordingly, a narrow claim construction is the standard, but such construction must avoid the prohibitions of (1) "reading limitations from the specification into the claims", and (2) "revising or ignoring the explicit language of the claims".

Consumable Key Number

The term "consumable key number" or equivalent "consumable participation key" is particularly at issue in this and related proceedings and is therefore being discussed. Given the requirement for narrow construction, the term consumable key number is construed in light of (1) the specification, (2) the *Markman* hearing, and (3) the prosecution history of the term in related applications and proceedings.

The Court in *Katz et al. v. AT&T Corp. et al.* construed the meaning of "consumable participation key", which in the context of the claims of the '156 patent is synonymous with "consumable key number". The Court construed "consumable key number" to mean "a number or word that allows a caller access to a service or part of a service a predefined limited number of times and **which cannot be refreshed or recharged.**" (*Katz et al. v. AT&T Corp. et al.*, 63 F.supp.2d 623). Although not binding on the Office during reexamination proceedings, it is noted that the Courts

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give terms a narrower construction (rather than a broad construction) consistent with the specification and therefore provide guidance in interpreting what "patentee means by the words of the claims", as consistent with *Ex parte Bowles, supra*.

Similarly, Patent Owner has argued in a reexamination proceeding directed to a related patent (US 5,255,309, proceeding nos. 90/006,976 merged with 90/007,092) a definition consistent with the finding of the Court, as above. In this regard, in a response filed after final in the reexamination proceedings, 90/006,976 merged with 90/007,092, Patent Owner presents a compilation of the prosecution history in related applications directed to the meaning of the term "consumable participation key". In each instance, Patent Owner argues a meaning consistent with the Court, above. (See Patent Owner's Response in proceeding 90/007,092 filed 5 June 2006 pages 104-124 which is attached herein as Exhibit A.)

With the above in mind, then, the narrowed construction of the term "consumable participation key" or equivalent "consumable key number" is that meaning given by the Court above. The consumable key number cannot ever --for any reason-- be refreshed or recharged or renewed once the predefined number of uses have been used --not even if the consumable key number is implemented using a use-rate calculator.

Priority Date for various claim features

1. The feature "consumable key number" has two different priority dates

Requester argues that the feature "consumable key number" has an earliest priority date of 16 May 1988 (Request, beginning at p. 12, last sentence). In this regard, the Request states (bold emphasis added),

With respect to the limitation of a **consumable key number** recited in the claims of the '156 patent, this limitation only finds support in the benefit applications dating back to May 16, 1988. The earliest benefit applications, including application Serial No. 018,244, filed February 24, 1987, now U.S. Patent No. 4,792,968 ("the '968 patent"), which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 753,299 ("the 299 application"), filed July 10, 1985, now abandoned, **do not provide support for the scope and the meaning of this claim term as recited in the '156 claims**, or as determined by the court in *Katz et al. v. AT&T Corp. et al.*, 63 F.supp.2d 583 (E.D.Pa. 1999). Attached to this request as Appendix F are copies of the '968 patent and the '299 application.

...

The specifications of the earliest benefit applications, namely, the '299 application and the '968 patent, refer to a consumable key number in the context of selecting a group of callers, or polling or surveying a select group of callers. Callers use a "key number" to access a telephonic system, such as for polling or

EXHIBIT 5



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
90/006,978	03/26/2004	5561707	6646-140EERE	3470

35554 7590 09/29/2006

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EXAMINER

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2006

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Control Nos.: 90/007,074 & 90/006,978

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1. Narrowed interpretation of "consumable participation key"

In the first row, center col. of Table 1 on pp. 46-47, Patent Owner argues that the feature, "consumable participation key" "must be interpreted as a finite number of uses accorded to a caller in a defined or a non-recurring period of time that once consumed are not automatically refreshed by the system".

The term "consumable participation key" has been particularly at issue in this and related proceedings. Given the requirement for narrow construction, the feature "consumable participation key" is construed in light of (1) the specification, (2) the *Markman* hearing, and (3) the prosecution history in related applications for patent.

The Court in *Katz et al. v. AT&T Corp. et al.* construed the meaning of "consumable participation key" to mean "a number or word that allows a caller access to a service or part of a service a predefined limited number of times and **which cannot be refreshed or recharged**" (*Katz et al. v. AT&T Corp. et al.*, 63 F.supp.2d 623). Although not binding on the Office during reexamination proceedings, it is noted that the Courts give terms a narrower construction (rather than a broad construction) consistent with the specification and therefore provide guidance in interpreting what "patentee means by the words of the claims", as consistent with *Ex parte Bowles, supra*. Given that the '707 patent has expired, the claims are to be construed narrowly rather than broadly (MPEP 2258(I)(G)), so the Court's narrow interpretation is considered particularly relevant here.

During the prosecution of related applications, Patent Owner has argued a definition consistent with the finding of the Court, as above. In this regard, Patent Owner presents a compilation of the prosecution history in related applications for patent directed to the meaning of the term "consumable participation key". In each instance, Patent Owner argues a meaning consistent with the Court, above. (See Patent Owner's Response filed 17 July 2006, pages 161-194, "Appendix A".)

With the above in mind, then, the narrowed construction of the term "consumable participation key" is taken to be that given by the Court, *supra*. Consistent with the narrowed interpretation resulting from the expiration of the patent, the consumable key number **cannot ever --for any reason-- be refreshed or recharged or renewed once the predefined number of uses have been used --not even if the consumable key number is implemented using a use-rate calculator.**

1. None of De Bruyn, Yoshizawa, Emerson, and Daudelin disclose the feature, "consumable participation key" consistent with the narrowed interpretation

Although each of *De Bruyn* and *Yoshizawa* provide participation key numbers (the telephone number and/or secret code in *De Bruyn* and the customer number and/or password in *Yoshizawa*) limiting use of the IVR (interactive voice response) systems, the participation key numbers providing access are automatically refreshed on a given period, each week in *De Bruyn* (*De Bruyn*, p. 5, lines 11-19)

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and each day in *Yoshizawa* (*Yoshizawa*, p. 219, left-hand col., first ¶). Because the participation key numbers are refreshed, they are not consumable participation keys within the narrowed meaning discussed above.

Similarly, *Daudelin* provides a participation key, as a calling card number, but the calling card can be refreshed by paying the telephone bill.

This position is consistent with Patent Owner's arguments in the Response at pages 43-46 (directed to *De Bruyn*), 56-57 (directed to *Yoshizawa*) and 61, last paragraph (directed to *Daudelin*).

Emerson provides a participation key, as an access code to the IVR system, but the participation key is not consumed and therefore fails to read on the narrowed interpretation.

2. Norris discloses a "consumable participation key" consistent with the narrowed interpretation

Notably Patent Owner has included *Norris* in the list of references and **incorrectly** indicated that Examiner indicates that *Norris*'s consumable participation key is refreshable when it is abundantly clear from *Norris* that the PIN can be used only one time and never again and is therefore **not refreshable**.

Norris states,

Dial Info also is preparing a promotion for a cereal marketer that features a telephone sweepstakes. Consumers will use a toll-free line to **call in a personal identification number that has been placed in each box of cereal**. The computer will announce whether the number wins a prize. The computer will announce whether the number wins a prize. "Again, this idea focuses on the instant win possibility and instant gratification of the telephone," Mr. Hertel says. "But the really nice part of this idea is that **the computer will be able to keep track of the personal identification numbers so that if someone tries to call in a second time with the same number the computer would merely inform the caller the number has already been used**. That would encourage consumers to make more purchases of the product." (*Norris*, p. 2, 2nd col.)

The "personal identification number" reads on the "consumable participation key" because it can only be used one time and is then "consumed". Accordingly, Patent Owner's Table 1 is in error in this regard.

EXHIBIT 6

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Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. v. Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, 346 F.3d 1051, 1054 (Fed. Cir. 2003); *Rosco, Inc. v. Mirror Lite Co.*, 120 Fed. Appx. 832, 836 (Fed. Cir. 2005); *Animatics Corp. v. Quicksilver Controls, Inc.*, 102 Fed. Appx. 659, 670-71 (Fed. Cir. 2004). Respectfully, with respect to the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b), the Patentee traverses the rejections and demonstrates below that the asserted art does not pre-date the Patentee's own earlier disclosure. With this response, the Patentee discloses a Declaration by Mr. Jerry Klein under Rule 132, an expert in the combined field of computers and telephony (Klein V, signed October 23, 2006). References to this declaration are made in the following arguments.

B. Rejection of Claims 10, 14, and 20-22 are Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as Anticipated by Norris (FOA, page 9).

In paragraph 1 of the office action, claims 10, 11, 14, and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the article by Eileen Norris entitled "Phone offers action at push of button," in *Advertising Age*, February 6, 1986. The Examiner has rejected these claims based on the premise that Norris (published 6 February 1986) pre-dates the "apparent" broadening disclosure "consumable key number to limit access...to a limited number of uses" in the application that became the '968 patent. The Examiner indicates that therefore, Norris qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) relative to at least claims 10, 14 and 20.

The Patentee assumes that the mention of claim 11 is an inadvertent error because claim 11 is indicated as patentable and confirmed on the summary page of this office action.

The Patentee demonstrates below why Norris is not prior art to at least claims 10, 14, and 20-21. Each of these claims is supported by the disclosure in the '299 application (July 1985) as also established in the expert declaration (see Klein V, paragraphs 12-20).

1. The meaning of a "consumable key number" is established (by the Court, by prior prosecution histories, and by the Examiner as indicated in the OA) given the requirement for narrow construction.

Claims 10, 14 and 20-22 include the limitation "consumable key number." The Examiner has indicated that this term as well as any equivalents should be construed in light of

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the specification, the Markman hearing, and the prosecution histories of the term in related applications and histories. The Court's definition is, "a number or word that allows a caller access to a service or part of a service a predefined limited number of times and which cannot be refreshed or recharged." (*Katz et al. v. AT&T Corp. et al.*, 63 F.supp. 2d 623). The Examiner has indicated that:

[g]iven the requirement for narrow construction, the term consumable key number is construed in light of (1) the specification, (2) the *Markman* hearing, and (3) the prosecution history of the term in related applications and proceedings.

The Court in *Katz et al. v. AT&T Corp. et al.* construed the meaning of "consumable participation key", which in the context of the claims of the '156 patent is synonymous with "consumable key number". The Court construed "consumable key number" to mean "a number or word that allows a caller access to a service or part of a service a predefined limited number of times and which cannot be refreshed or recharged." (*Katz et al. AT&T Corp. et al.* 63 F.supp.2d 623). Although not binding on the Office during reexamination proceedings, it is noted that the Courts give terms a narrower construction (rather than a broad construction) consistent with the specification and therefore provide guidance in interpreting what "patentee means by the words of the claims", as consistent with *Ex parte Bowles*, supra.

Similarly, Patent Owner has argued in a reexamination proceeding directed to a related patent (US 5,255,309, proceeding nos. 90/006,976 merged with 90/007,092) a definition consistent with the finding of the Court, as above. In this regard, in a response filed after final in the reexamination proceedings, 90/006,976 merged with 90/007,092, Patent Owner presents a compilation of the prosecution history in related applications directed to the meaning of the term "consumable participation key". In each instance, Patent Owner argues a meaning consistent with the Court, above. (See Patent Owner's Response in proceeding 90/007,092 filed 5 June 2006 pages 104-124 which is attached herein as Exhibit A.)

This definition clearly establishes that a consumable key number allows access to a service or a part of a service a **predefined limited number of times**, which cannot be refreshed or recharged (emphasis by bold added). Therefore, the term "consumable key number" in claims 10, 14 and 20-22 must be construed as a predefined limited number of times, which would include any unspecified number of uses (including a single or plural uses).

EXHIBIT 7



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11/6/06

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EX PARTE REEXAMINATION COMMUNICATION TRANSMITTAL FORM

REEXAMINATION CONTROL NO 90/007697

PATENT NO. 5,787,156

ART UNI 3992

Enclosed is a copy of the latest communication from the United States Patent and Trademark Office in the above identified ex parte reexamination proceeding (37 CFR 1.550(f)).

Where this copy is supplied after the reply by requester, 37 CFR 1.535, or the time for filing a reply has passed, no submission on behalf of the ex parte reexamination requester will be acknowledged or considered (37 CFR 1.550(g)).



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REENA KUYPER, ESQ. BYARD NILSSON, ESQ. 9255 SUNSET BOULEVARD SUITE 810 LOS ANGELES, CA 90069			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Ex Parte Reexamination Interview Summary	Control No.	Patent Under Reexamination	
	90/007,697	5787156	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Erik Kielin	3992	

All participants (USPTO personnel, patent owner, patent owner's representative):

(1) Erik Kielin (3) Reena Kuyper

(2) Mark Reinhart (4) Tom Pardini

Date of Interview: 12 October 2006

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☒ Personal (copy given to: 1) ☐ patent owner 2) ☐ patent owner's representative)

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☐ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.
Any other agreement(s) are set forth below under "Description of the general nature of what was agreed to..."

Claim(s) discussed: 1, 10 and 27.

Identification of prior art discussed: Norris, Dilks, and Moosemiller.

Description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments:
See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims patentable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims patentable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

A FORMAL WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE PATENT OWNER'S STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP § 2281). IF A RESPONSE TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION HAS ALREADY BEEN FILED, THEN PATENT OWNER IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO PROVIDE THE MANDATORY STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW (37 CFR 1.560(b)). THE REQUIREMENT FOR PATENT OWNER'S STATEMENT CAN NOT BE WAIVED. EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE GOVERNED BY 37 CFR 1.550(c).

cc: Requester (if third party requester) MARK J. REINHART Examiner's signature, if required Erik Kielin

Continuation Sheet (PTOL-474)

Reexam Control No. 90/007,697

Continuation of Description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: (1) Examiner agreed to consider Patent Owner's position that the original specification has support for the genus of the feature, "consumable key number", not just the species of "consumable key number" limiting a caller to a one time use only. (2) Patent Owner pointed out that Norris would not qualify as prior art based upon the reasoning in (1). (3) Examiner agreed to consider Patent Owner's position that Dilks is not an IVR system. (4) In regard, to (3) Examiner pointed out that that an agent interacted with the airline reservation system on behalf of the telephone caller, when reservations were made or changed in Dilks. (5) Examiner also pointed out that a potential passenger could make reservations, check in, etc. using an automated ticketing booth within the airport using the automated airline reservation system in Dilks.



MARK J. REINHART
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CENTRAL REEXAMINATION UNIT

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE
WILMINGTON DIVISION

RONALD A. KATZ TECHNOLOGY)
LICENSING, L.P.,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL,)
GROUP, INC., ET AL.,)
)
Defendants.)
_____)

C.A. No. 1:06-CV-00547-GMS

ORDER

On this ____ day of _____, 2007, came for consideration Defendant Aquila, Inc.'s Motion to Stay Action Pending the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Reexamination of Plaintiff's Patents. Having reviewed Defendant's Motion and Brief, Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing L.P.'s Response thereto, and Defendant's Reply, the Court is of the Opinion that Defendant's Motion should be granted and this case stayed at least until the PTO's reexamination of patents assigned to Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing L.P. is complete.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Defendant's Motion for a stay is GRANTED.
Accordingly, all aspects of this case are stayed.

SO ORDERED on this _____ day of _____, 2007.

THE HONORABLE GREGORY M. SLEET

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Karen E. Keller, Esquire, hereby certify that on December 19, 2006, I caused to be electronically filed a true and correct copy of the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using CM/ECF, which will send notification that such filing is available for viewing and downloading to the following counsel of record:

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I further certify that I caused a copy of the foregoing document to be served by e-mail and hand delivery on December 19, 2006 on the above-listed counsel of record.

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